VOL. XXXI.—No. 372. 20th DECEMBER, 1916. [SUBSCRIPTION: 10/- PER ANNUM POST FREE.

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy

With which is Incorporated

The Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, MELBOURNE, FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A NEWSPAPER

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P. A. T. A.

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Support the P.A.T.A.

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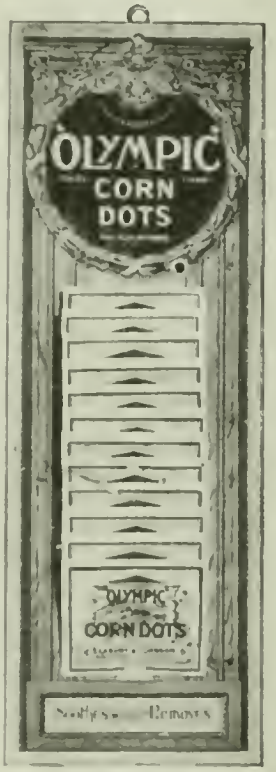
CONFORMS TO THE N.S.W. PURE FOOD ACT.

'OLYMPIC'

TRADE MARK

CORN DOTS



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Colliandum ...	35/7	4/-	Pilenta Soap ...	16/-	1 9
Onalite	35 7	4/-	Nail Polish ...	16/-	1/9
Pergol	35 7	4/-	Jettaline	48/10	5/6
Stallax	35 7	4 -	Meroolized Wax ...	48/10	5 6
Tekko Paste ...	35/7	4 -	Liquid Pergol ...	48/10	5 6
Silmerine	35,7	4 -	Pheminol	56 5	6 3
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Manufactured from the FINEST BRITISH MEATS.

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By Australians.

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ASPIRIN

TRADE MARK.

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GUARANTEED NOT TO SLIP OR LEAK.

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No. 27

ON THE P.A.T.A. OF AUSTRALIA.

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Wyleys Limited
Coventry.

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CITY ROAD.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

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Articles.

The Business of Pharmacy.

Pharmacy, as a profession, says *The Western Druggist* for October, 1916, calls for scientific training of a high order. Its practice is hedged about by legal restrictions and disabilities that in many instances are arbitrary and ill-considered, while the profits it yields fail to keep pace, in most drug stores, with the increasing cost of doing business and the exacting public demands for service.

The business of pharmacy, on the other hand, is tending more and more in the direction of general merchandising. Fully 75 per cent. of the business of many modern drug stores is done in front of the prescription partition. High professional attainments and qualifications no longer are sufficient, then, for the making of a successful druggist, if ever they were in the past. Without such qualifications student pharmacists in these days cannot hope successfully to come up to the standards imposed by college and state board examinations, and rightly so. The highest standards of professional pharmacy must be rigidly maintained. Possessing such qualifications, however, the young pharmacist in most cases still stands in need of much training and experience in the business side of pharmacy. Before his own success as a business man is assured, or his full usefulness to an employer can be developed, a sound knowledge of the principles and practice of merchandising must be added to his knowledge of his profession. He may be able to fill a prescription with precision and accuracy, but what does he know about overhead expense? His knowledge of the processes of pharmacy may be admirable, but if he is ignorant of buying and selling and of the practical cutting of his business coat according to his cloth, if he cannot successfully carry out an analysis of costs and profits as well as a chemical analysis, and compile a balance-sheet as

well as compound a prescription, his business life in the drug field is likely to be a short and checkered one.

How may this necessary business training and experience best be obtained?

There was a time when all the training of the druggist was gained through actual experience in the store, and training of any other kind was regarded as of very doubtful value. Colleges of pharmacy have since demonstrated conclusively the superiority of the thorough, systematic training of the schools in the scientific and professional side of the druggist's work, and there are those who hold that school training—specialised courses provided by existing schools of pharmacy or to be obtained through business colleges—affords the most satisfactory solution of the problem of business education. Others hold just as strongly that practical experience behind the counter affords the only remedy for the business shortcomings of the inexperienced graduate pharmacist, but complaint that those lacking such experience are unwilling, after graduating from a college of pharmacy, to content themselves with the wages of inexperience while they master the essentials of modern merchandising.

The problem is not one confined to the drug trade alone. In modified forms, and to a greater or less degree, it crops up in other lines as well, and its solution is largely a matter for the individual. The young man whose eyes are fixed solely on immediate returns may often seem to be the winner to-day, but in the long run he is likely to be outstripped by his more far-sighted fellow who is willing to learn to-day, to sacrifice something to-day, that to-morrow, in the long run, he may be qualified by hard-won experience for larger responsibilities and greater returns. Such a young man looks forward, as a rule, to owning and managing a store of his own, rather than to working indefinitely for an employer. He realises something at least of the costliness of experience which, in a business of his own, would be his own loss. By giving intelligent, interested, enthusiastic service to an employer and being willing to do so at the wages of inexperience, he qualifies himself the more quickly and surely for handling a business of his own. Such service seldom goes for long unrecognised and unrewarded to-day. If it does in one position, there are others in which it will not. The greatest reward of all, however, never finds its way into the weekly pay envelope; it is the definite knowledge and confidence and resourcefulness that nothing but experience can give and nothing take away.

On the Composition of a Yellow Deposit Found in Ammonium Molybdate Bottles.

A Note by A. R. Penfold, F.L.S.

Read before the Sydney Technical College Chemical Society.

During the year 1912, Mr. R. W. Challoner, F.C.S., F.I.C., and myself noticed the deposit of large yellow crystals at the bottom of the solution of ammonium molybdate bottles for use by students of quantitative analysis. Chemists have observed the same thing, but about the time mentioned the deposition was very rapid.

Quite naturally, we considered it was due to some mistake on the student, most probably a day student, having poured a solution of some phosphate into the reagent bottle, which resulted in the precipitation of the well-known phospho-molybdic acid.

However, we became doubtful of our conclusions on account of the large size of the crystals and the different solubility in NH_4OH. On careful testing these fine yellow crystals we failed to get a true reaction for phosphorus. The crystals, as per specimen exhibited, were therefore analysed.

On heating in a hard glass tube, H_2O was given off with the formation of a blue residue (thought to be a mixture of the oxides MoO_2 and Mo_2O_3), and on further heating a white residue of MoO_3 was left.

This suggested a simple method of analysis. On heating in air oven at 60-65 deg. C., 10 per cent. of H_2O was lost. On heating in a similar manner at 100-110 deg. C., a further 9 per cent. of H_2O was lost.

At this stage the powder possesses a fine blue colour. No further H_2O was given off until the powder was ignited, when the total loss in weight, calculated as H_2O, was 20.2 per cent. The residue on analysis was found to be MoO_3, 79.7 per cent.

The result of the analysis was H_2O 20 per cent., MoO_3 79.7 per cent. Calculated for a compound of the formula $MoO_3.2HO$.

H_2O	20%
MoO_3..	80%
	100%

The analysis was checked by weighing out 0.75 grams of the crystals, adding 50 c.c. of NH_4OH, sp. gr. 0.880, heating to boiling for 2 minutes until all dissolved (distinction from phospho-molybdic acid, which, on account of being in very fine crystalline state dissolves readily in dilute NH_4OH solution in the cold). 10 c.c. of glacial CH_3COOH are then added, and the volume made up to about 120-130 c.c. with distilled water and the molybdic acid precipitated from the solution just short of boiling point by lead acetate solution containing 40 grammes per litre.

Calculated from the weight of $PbMoO_4$ obtained, a similar result was obtained for the percentage of MoO_3.

The substance is therefore molybdic acid, $H_2MoO_4.H_2O$.

Our conclusion is based on the fact that, on heating the yellow acid to 60 deg. C., one molecule of H_2O is lost with the formation of the anhydrous acid, H_2MoO_4, an orange crystalline powder (specimen exhibited), and that the other molecule of H_2O (the most firmly combined one) is not expelled, except on ignition, when complete decomposition ensues. Even at 100-110 deg. C., decomposition takes place slowly with the formation of the blue mixture of oxides.

On looking up the literature, the only reference we can find to molybdic acid is Roscoe and

Schorlormmer, Vol. II., page 1065, where they give directions for the preparation of molybdic acid by dissolving 3 parts of ammonium molybdate in 20 parts of water, and then adding the same quantity of HNO_3 of sp. gr. 1.16, and allowing the mixture to stand, when the deposition of the acid takes place very slowly indeed. They also state that by heating the yellow acid at 60 deg. C., the anhydrous acid is produced, which is white in colour. Our specimen, you will observe, is orange coloured.

This acid is sparingly soluble in H_2O and is a most useful source for the preparation of the blue compound of Mo, said to be a mixture of the oxides, MoO_2 and MoO_3. It can readily be prepared by drying in the H_2O oven.

On account of this substance being liable to be mistaken for phospho-molybdic acid, and thus to be thrown away, we thought it as well to put this note before you in order to save others the trouble of analysis.

Venereal Diseases.

Venereal Diseases Bill.

VICTORIA.

After a lengthy discussion, covering nearly sixty pages of Hansard, the Legislative Council finally passed the Venereal Diseases Bill on December 6. The debate was of a more general nature than that of the Legislative Assembly. Several members strongly opposed the compulsory notification clauses. Mr. W. J. Beckett was unsuccessful in securing the omission of gonorrhœa, from the Bill. He strongly advocated the treatment by pharmacists of this disease being allowed. Mr. Richardson (Geelong) said that in the country districts, where medical men were few, chemists had done admirable work, and were qualified to prescribe the necessary medicines. This was a matter which largely affected country districts. Mr. Richardson said he would like the President of the Chemists' Association to give evidence to the House. He moved that a Select Committee be appointed to take evidence. The motion was lost. The Bill was then taken into Committee. Mr. J. Drysdale Brown urged the Committee to allow pharmacists to go on for some time as they had been doing in the past. Mr. Beckett said that chemists treated a number of simple diseases very well indeed. Why should their rights be taken away? They were not quacks. They had to pass a series of examinations. He moved a series of amendments based on the Western Australian legislation. Mr. A. Robinson (Honorary Minister) said that clause 5 had been accepted by the representatives of the chemists. It had been agreed that the medical profession and pharmacists were to meet to draw up a list of articles not to be sold. Mr. Robinson said that if chemists were to be allowed to treat syphilis, what was the good of the Bill at all. It was not a question of whether they were registered, but whether they possessed the necessary knowledge and training. He did not deny that skill and ability were required to dispense, but the study required could not be compared with the medical course. The British Royal Commission had reported that the effects of unqualified practice were disastrous. Prescribing by chemists was a form of unqualified practice.

Mr. J. P. Jones said that chemists had compromised on the Bill. The majority was satisfied that the Bill was a good one, and that the Minister had granted all reasonable requests. His own chemist had endorsed this opinion. Mr. Beggs said that if chemists were allowed to prescribe the whole principle of the Bill would be upset. Mr. Jones opposed the amendments, which, he said, placed chemists in a worse position than they were under the Government's proposals. He personally was opposed to chemists treating these diseases. Syphilis might be cured apparently, but it would break out unexpectedly later on. Some chemists were successful in their treatment, but they could not claim equal competency to medical men.

Mr. Brown contended that the results of his inquiries showed that gonorrhœa was not a difficult disease to cure if taken in the early stages. He saw no reason why a pharmaceutical chemist should not be allowed to treat the lesser venereal diseases. Patients would have to pay a doctor £1 1s. a visit, for what they could get from a chemist for a few shillings. Mr. Robinson said that the Government could not give way on this point. Mr. Brown said he would like time to ascertain the views of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Aikman said that in isolated districts chemists should be allowed to treat the disease. Some chemists knew more about this and other ailments than doctors. Mr. King, of Ballarat, and Mr. Hearne, of Geelong, were two he had in mind. He knew lots of people who would rather go to such chemists than to doctors. He instanced a case where a chemist had cured him of neuritis. Mr. Beckett said that it was a pity Mr. R. B. Rees was not present. His knowledge would have been advantageous. Mr. Aikman said he felt sure Mr. Rees would favour chemists prescribing. Chemists ought to be allowed to give what might be called first-aid. They were men of responsibility, and had to pass examinations. Chemists could be made to report the case after they had made up the first prescription. Mr. E. J. Crooke opposed altering the clause, because, in his opinion, it would open the door to quacks. Mr. D. E. McBryde said that the Government had consulted the chemists, and it was evident that the majority of them agreed that this was the best way to deal with the evil. He blamed the press for the class of advertisements it inserted. If flaws were discovered in the Act they could be rectified later on. Mr. McLellan thought that the Federal Commission's report must be accepted. That report was against chemists prescribing. He controverted the idea that gonorrhœa was a simple disease, and quoted figures to show it was increasing. Mr. Beckett said that if chemists in country districts were prevented from prescribing they would have to close up. Under the circumstances, he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr M[illegible] moved to omit the words requiring a doctor's prescription to be signed with his full name. He could not see any objection to the provision.

Mr Robinson urged the retention of the clause, which was supported by Mr McLellan. Mr Jones said that the clause was inserted at the request of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Robinson said there must be some means of identifying the doctor who wrote the prescription. Mr Merritt said that he favoured the full signature. It was dangerous only to require prescriptions to be initialled. Mr Manifold withdrew his amendment. The clause was then passed as printed in the Bill, without amendment.

On the following day clause 5 was recommitted. Mr. Brown informed the House that he had since made inquiries, and was more satisfied there was no necessity to alter the clause.

Right of Chemists to Prescribe.

Mr. Beckett said (Hansard, 3030): "When this matter was previously under consideration, I endeavoured to get an amendment which would deal with the rights of chemists to supply certain drugs. It is provided in the clause that no person other than a medical practitioner, or person acting under direct instructions of a medical practitioner, shall prescribe any drug or medicine to a person suffering from venereal disease. The common law right of pharmaceutical chemists gives them the power to prescribe drugs in quite a number of instances, even when not acting under the direction of a medical practitioner. It is distinctly stated in section 18 of the Medical Act, that nothing in that division shall be construed as infringing upon the rights and privileges enjoyed by chemists, druggists or dentists. Nothing could be clearer than that; but in the Bill we have now before us, the position of chemists and druggists in Victoria will not be the same as that of those in Western Australia. It has been laid down by the Supreme Court in Western Australia that in certain cases a chemist has the common law right to prescribe for any person who consults him. I do not know if members of the legal profession in this House have had their attention drawn to this particular case; but it is pertinent to the present issue. Mr. Justice Hensman, in the course of his judgment, according to a report in *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, said—'He was consequently compelled to take the view that the Legislature obviously meant that there should be no interference with that which chemists were then lawfully doing; and he found that, as a matter of fact, for many years chemists and druggists had been in the habit of doing what the appellant did in this case. It must, he added, be obvious that the Act could not be so strictly construed that a chemist was never to prescribe or to perform the functions of surgery; and no representative of pharmacy could have illustrated this position more clearly or sympathetically than did His Honour. In the case, for instance, of a person supposed to have taken poison, or in cases of accidents in the streets, it would be contrary to reason if the chemist were not justified in exercising his mind as to what should be done at the moment. And His Honour supplied the further cogent argument that it was to the advantage of the public that chemists should have a considerable amount of latitude in this respect. A doctor, said His Honour, was ambulatory, and could move about, while the chemist was stationary, and it was useful for persons to know where they could go in cases of emergency. Mr. Justice Parker and Mr. Justice Moorhead fully concurred in Mr. Justice Hensman's remarks. For years before the passing of the Medical Act these minor offices were performed by chemists, and if there were any intention of the Legislature to curtail the practise of chemists in this respect, provision would have been made for it in clear and distinct language.'

"If we pass the clause in the form in which it is before us, chemists will be permitted to sell only proprietary medicines and toilet requisites. We know that is not the function of chemists, and we should not infringe on their rights in the treatment of this disease."

The clause was agreed to.

Western Australian Prosecutions.

A number of pharmacists in different portions of the State have been charged with offences under the Western Australian Health Act Amendment (Venereal Diseases). So far, only two cases have been dealt with, and these were heard in camera. Our Perth correspondent has forwarded the following report of these particular prosecutions:—

"A duly qualified chemist was charged with treating, or prescribing, or selling, an unapproved patent medicine for venereal complaint, and pleaded not guilty. A common informer, employed and paid by the Health Department for the sole purpose of securing convictions under the Act, gave evidence to the general effect that he told the chemist that he was suffering from some venereal trouble, and that the chemist stated he could fix him up, and gave him a bottle of medicine, charging him 3s. 6d. This evidence was quite uncorroborated, outside of the fact that an inspector stated that the informer recounted to him his experiences *inside the shop*, where he was waiting the informer's return some distance away up the street. The chemist then gave his evidence, and stated that he remembered the man coming into his pharmacy, but that no mention was ever made of any venereal trouble. The man gave him to understand, by reason of his urine being cloudy, that his kidneys wanted some slight attention, and he made him up a mixture for them, charging him 3s. 6d. This evidence was likewise uncorroborated, outside the fact that the mixture was produced in court, and was sworn to be a very ordinary kidney mixture of Pot Bicarb. Tinc. Hyosy. Inf. Buchu, and possibly a little Spt Ether Nit. The magistrate, however, inflicted a fine of £5, it being his opinion that the evidence of the informer must be given preference to, as he had no personal interest in the matter."

You can see that if the above class of prosecution of chemists is to be persisted in by the Health Department, it is a serious matter. For all time past, many pharmacists have attended to the various phases of urethritis more especially, although at the present time the majority are quite anxious and willing to fall in with the intention of the Act. The question now arises, what is to be done—as to take an extreme case—it will be possible for any unprincipled informer to enter a pharmacy, purchase a packet of salts or some other simple drug, and then aver (no other person being present), that he had informed the chemist that it was for the relief or treatment of a venereal disease, when a prosecution may be successful and a fine imposed. As a matter of fact, it will become dangerous to practice the calling of a qualified and registered pharmacist at all.

The second case against a chemist was heard in camera on Saturday morning, Dec. 2. The case was dismissed, with costs against the Government. In this case the chemist maintained that he had, at the request of the informer, repeated a prescription of a medical man, given to the informer four years ago. The informer gave evidence on oath almost word for word as in the first case. Mr. Mayhew, Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society, who was present, states that the man admitted he had been convicted of living on the proceeds of immorality, and, further, that he had a grudge against chemists, for the reason that he had been taken down for some pounds by some chemist who treated him. The other cases were adjourned until Dec. 15. Seeing that there is such a shortage of chemists and assistants, it seems shameful that men should be taken away from their dispensaries, through the over-zeal of the Department upon such trumpery charges, and in the company of every description of quack—white, black, and yellow.

Venereal Disease in the German Army.

The *Lancet* of September 23, 1916, contains a resume of a report to the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases on the Control of Venereal Disease in Germany during the War. The information given in this article is of peculiar interest to us at the present time, when this subject is attracting our special attention, and when various mild and extreme, practical and ideal proposals have been put forward. It appears that in 1870 von Töpley enunciated an axiom that the incidence of venereal disease rises steadily during the course of war. The prevalence of syphilis, gonorrhœa and soft sore among the German troops is estimated at approximately 4 per cent. In the period 1910-1911, it was 1.99 per hundred soldiers. This state of affairs created anxiety in the minds of the military authorities, and was the direct incentive to a comprehensive scheme of prevention. In June, 1915, von Hindenburg issued an order threatening any woman who cohabited with a civilian or soldier in spite of the knowledge that she was suffering from a venereal disease, with imprisonment not exceeding one year. Prostitutes who failed to register themselves were also to be imprisoned. Other measures were taken to remove soldiers from the risk of contracting these diseases. The second stage in the prophylaxis was the enforcement of preventive measures, including the condom, calomel ointment and solutions of silver nitrate. The *Lancet* looks askance at these measures, and points out that the æsthetic aspect of this system seems to have been lost sight of. From the point of view of preventive medicine, there are many who will not share the qualms expressed by our contemporary. It is true that the condom carries with it a reduction in the birth-rate, but no less an authority than Neisser is prepared to advocate its employment, notwithstanding this disadvantage. He goes as far as to teach that if the *Deutsche Gesellschaft fur die Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten* (German Society for combating of Venereal Diseases) dissociated itself from the teaching of individual prophylaxis, its bankruptcy would be inevitable. An energetic scheme of treatment of syphilis and gonorrhœa is in force, and measures are adopted to fit this scheme with continued service when this is possible. The last stage in the anti-venereal campaign is foreshadowing what they propose doing after the war. The *Lancet* wisely appends to these plans the provisos that the enemy will have at its disposal a sufficient sum of money, and that its people will be willing to submit to far-reaching restrictions of personal liberties. Blaschko proposes that every soldier who suffered from a venereal disease during the war should have to be placed under military control until negative Wassermann reactions or the absence of gonococci satisfy the expert that the infection has been cured. The insurance societies are apparently prepared to undertake the observation and treatment of these cases, and it is stated that this activity will be spread beyond the limit of the insured, to include every case of syphilis which is notified to the central authorities. In addition, a drastic reform in the control of prostitution is favoured. We learn that Blaschko and Neisser are not in agreement in regard to the registration of brothels. The former advocates their closure, at all events during the war, as he regards these houses as a powerful stimulus to immorality. Neisser holds the opinion that a well conducted brothel is less dangerous than uncontrolled prostitution. — *Medical Journal of Australia.*

American Notes.

RIGHT OF PHARMACISTS TO SELL PROPRIETARIES.

The American Pharmaceutical Association Commission on Proprietary Medicines has reported that a legitimate field exists for ready-made or packed remedies intended for the domestic treatment of common ailments, provided they are appropriate for use in the particular affections for which they are recommended, and are not deceptively labelled or advertised, or

otherwise improperly exploited. It is the traditional right of the pharmacist, sanctioned by custom and tradition, to keep such remedies in stock and to supply them to the public on demand. In meeting this demand, the report concludes, the pharmacist should refrain from usurping the proper functions of the physician, especially in regard to diagnosis.

ALCOHOL IN PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.

The Commission exhaustively examined a large number of proprietary medicines with a view of ascertaining whether the percentage of alcohol and narcotic drugs present therein was such as to create alcohol or drug habits. Altogether 1108 fairly representative preparations were examined. The frequency of alcohol was found to be as follows:—In packed preparations, 30 per cent.; Pharmaceutical preparations, 48.25 per cent.; National Formulary preparations, 47.05 per cent. In 1915 the Association report expressed the permissible alcoholic content in popular packed remedies to be as follows:

> If the preparation contains alcohol, it must be sufficiently medicated to prevent its use as an habitual drug beverage, and, in addition to this requirement, the proportion of alcohol present must not be greater than is properly necessary to hold in solution in permanently active condition the essential constituents of the preparation, and to protect the preparation against freezing, fermentation, or other deleterious change.

It will be recognised, says the Report of 1916, by everyone familiar with the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations, that the proportion of alcohol necessary to keep the "essential constituents of a solution in a "permanently active condition," or to protect it "against freezing, fermentation or other deleterious change," will vary constantly with the character and quantity of the substances in solution. Whether or not alcohol is present in excess in a given preparation can be determined only by an examination of that particular preparation.

From 15 to 20 per cent by volume should not be considered excessive to prevent fermentation and moulding in preparation of simple vegetable drugs. The report demonstrates that there is no basis in reason or in fact to the objection only recently entered up, and which has been urged with such zeal and pertinacity, that these remedies on account of their alcoholic content are likely to be used for tippling purposes, the Commission finding that, so far as their investigations extend, of the total number of medicinal preparations containing less than 30 per cent. contained alcohol in proportions of one per cent or over, and that most, if not all, are sufficiently medicated to prevent their use as intoxicating beverages, and that hence any objection on the score of alcoholic content would apply with even greater force to the official preparations, 48 per cent of which contain alcohol in the proportion named or more.

HABIT FORMING DRUGS.

The Commission examined, in 1915, labels on 1108 packed proprietaries. Of these 8.3 per cent contained opium or its alkaloids or derivatives, cannabis indica or chloral hydrate. In 1916, 1078 similar preparations were examined. Only 5.05 per cent contained habit-forming drugs. Of five preparations containing extract of cannabis indica, three were corn remedies and two were cough mixtures not likely to be used in large doses or for any considerable length of time. Of four chloral hydrate preparations, one was a hair tonic, one an antiseptic lotion, one an application for eczema, and one a toothache remedy. None of the preparations contained cocaine or eucaine in any quantity.

FALSE ADVERTISING THE BASIC EVIL OF THE PACKAGE MEDICINE BUSINESS.

In its last report the Commission expressed the opinion that the greatest evil connected with the package medicine industry has been the falsity and extravagance with which its products have so frequently been exploited, and that many meritorious package remedies exist concerning which no criticism can be offered except as to the methods employed in their exploitation.

The Commission has not since discovered facts or arguments that would cause it to modify that opinion. It still believes that the enforcement of truth in advertising is the proper correction of the present evils in the package remedy business, and that, except in so far as they may contribute to this end, all other proposed plans of regulation will be futile.

POTENT DRUGS AND FORMULÆ DISCLOSURE.

During the year careful inquiries were made by the Commission in regard to the regulation of proprietary medicines. A schedule of questions was circulated to a large number of manufacturers, retailers and associations. The replies received indicated that the publication of the formulae would either have no effect on the sale, or would tend to increase the use of proprietary medicines, as the chief argument against their use at present is that they are of a secret nature. Generally, it was contended that pharmacists would be liable for damages for the use of such medicines if the formulae were disclosed, as the courts hitherto have held pharmacists not to be responsible for the sale of remedies, the composition of which was unknown to them. As to the benefit of formulae disclosure, some think the public would be benefited. Others believe that the purchasers would either pay no attention to the formula, or if they did, would be inclined to experiment with combinations of their own. As an alternative to printing the formulae on the label, there was a division of opinion as to whether inspection and analysis was sufficient to protect the public against fraud. A majority of the answers favoured the publication of the active or potent drugs in preference to the publication of the entire formulae. Lodging a list of the active ingredients with an official bureau was almost unanimously opposed, as it would be difficult to constitute a bureau free from prejudice. There was a feeling that if such a bureau were authorised and placed under Federal control, for preference, it should have practical pharmacists amongst its members.

War Notes.

Germany's Strangle Hold.

The President of the British Board of Trade has given the following statistics for 1913 (the only year for which they were available), of the actual declarations of importers showing the amount of salicylates imported into Great Britain in that year:

	Total Imports.	Imports from Germany.
Salicylic acid ..	£10,703	£10,375
Sodium salicylate ..	£16,147	£15,264
Acetyl salicylate ..	£3,518	£3,376
Aspirin	£20,096	£19,974

Quantities could only be given in the case of sodium salicylate, of which 2,385 cwt. were declared, including 2,305 cwt. from Germany.

Killed in Action.

Major George Matson Nicholas, D.S.O., who died in action in France on Nov. 14, was a Victorian officer of great promise. Born in 1887, he joined the Australian Imperial Force on April 28 of last year, being attached as a lieutenant to the 24th Battalion. He formerly held that rank in the Senior Cadets. He won the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in France, and was invested with his decoration by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 4. Returning to the firing line, he was killed in action on November 14. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Nicholas, of Trafalgar. The deceased officer served his apprenticeship to his father some years ago, but he did not proceed further with his pharmaceutical course.

Private Eric S. Bisset, who was killed in action in France on 14th November, is the fourth student from the Melbourne College of Pharmacy who has given his life for his country's cause. He was apprenticed to Mr. G. E. Gulliver, of Messrs. Bowen and Co., and attended the lectures last year, when he was one of the most successful prize-winners. His death is deeply deplored by the College Staff, who held him in high esteem, and predicted a bright future for him if he had lived.

News from Abroad.

Hugh Webster, writing from Abbassia, Egypt, states that he is well. He finds Egypt very hot, and says it is a long time since he saw any rain. At the time of writing he was in charge of a casualty ward.

R. S Darling gives a thrilling account of the battle of Pozieres, which he describes as worse than anything he ever saw at Gallipoli. The whole country was covered with shell holes, and he had many exciting experiences.

Mr. P. J. Winch, of Armadale, has been notified that his youngest son, Gunner P. J. F. Winch (late apprentice to Mr. George Francis, Melbourne), of the 6th F.A. Brigade, who has been in France for 11 months, has been severely wounded, and is now in a hospital in England.

Leo. Sutcliffe (Abbotsford) writes that he is now a dispenser at the No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent. The hospital carries 1000 patients. His brother, Jack Sutcliffe, left England in October on transport duty, together with St. Sergt. Hughes.

Early Closing in Great Britain.

British pharmacists were required on and after 1st November, 1916, to compulsorily close their pharmacies on every night (including Sundays) at 7 p.m. The Regulations were brought into force in the interests of national economy and safety. Medicines and medical appliances only may be sold after 7 p.m., but the shop must be closed at that hour.

Glycerin as Medicine.

The British Minister of Munitions requires a guarantee from buyers that all medicinal glycerin delivered will be only used for making up B.P. or Codex preparations, or prescriptions of medical men. These restrictions are now being strictly enforced.

General.

Mr. Henry William De Gruchy, Geelong, was gazetted Honorary Lieutenant, Australian Army Medical Corps Reserve, on October 26, dating from August 22.

Major Charles Morley has returned to Melbourne, on furlough, after a lengthy absence at Gallipoli and the Somme front. He received a warm welcome from his pharmaceutical friends.

Lieut. H. H. Vail, pharmacist, Trafalgar, returned to Melbourne on Dec. 8, invalided home, after some stirring experiences in France, Egypt and Gallipoli. Lieut. Vail had some narrow escapes, and he is thankful to have come out unscathed, except for a slight deafness and nervous strain caused by explosive shells.

Lieut. Wyley, the only son of Colonel Wyley, of Wyleys, wholesale druggists, Coventry, has died of wounds received in France. The late Lieut. Wyley had a distinguished scholastic career at Oxford, and he was also foremost in the realm of sport. The late Lieut. Wyley's father is personally known to many Australian pharmacists, who will sincerely sympathise with him in the demise of his son.

Humour in the Trenches.

From "Somewhere in France," Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. have received from a correspondent the following letter:—"Knowing that your firm are the producers of Insecticide, we thought the following episode might be a source of interest and gratification to you. Passing a dug-out last Sunday, we paused to listen to an argument on the qualities of two brands of insect powders just received in parcels from home. After a few minutes, the debaters decided on a practical test. The following ensued:—Alf takes the two tins and empties a small heap of each on the floor in front of him. Diving his hand into his shirt, after a short time he procures a 'trench tiger' (trench lice), from the region of his waist-belt. Turning to his mate, he says: 'Now lend me one of yours, 'Erbert. I'll give 'im back to you, and I won't 'urt 'im.' 'Erbert in his turn makes a dive and gets one immediately. Alf takes the two 'tigers,' one in each hand, and covers them up in each heap of powder. No. 1 gives a few wriggles and walks out, his tail up in the air, and a store of the powder on his back for

the winter. No. 2 gives a few kicks, and turns over on his back—a goner. Alf: 'You won, 'Erbert, he's standing on his bloomin' ear.' Erb: 'Knew that stuff was all right. The mater sent it, and it's Insecticide.'"

Medico-Legal.

Property in Prescriptions.

We learn from the *Western Morning News* says the *British Medical Journal* of October 21st, that at the Honiton County Court on October 9th, before his Honor Judge Lindley, Henry Le Brasseur, of Woolmer, Stow Park, Newport, sued Hinton Lake and Sons, Limited, Fore Street, Sidmouth, for failing to return a prescription by Dr. Grant Wilson, of Sidmouth, given on August 16th, 1916, or to pay for the prescription, valued at 15s. Plaintiff said his wife received a prescription from Dr. Grant Wilson, which they took to the defendant to be made up. The prescription was not returned, and the assistant said that in the case of Dr. Grant Wilson's prescriptions they had orders to keep them, unless told otherwise by the doctor. Eventually the doctor sent a copy of the prescription with his receipt. Mr. McGahey said that on August 22nd, when Mr. Le Brasseur asked for the prescription, he was informed that they would give it up if Dr. Grant Wilson would agree. The doctor, however, declined. The prescription was of no value whatever to Messrs. Hinton Lake, and they were fighting the action on a question of principle, in order to keep faith with the medical profession and Dr. Grant Wilson. Dr. Grant Wilson said he had instructed the chemists when a patient asked for a prescription to let him know, and he then gave one. He did this to protect the public, because in many cases prescriptions intended for adults were given to infants. Whenever he gave a prescription which chemists could return to the patient he also wrote on it "return to patient." His Honor held that there was no property in the document given by Dr. Grant Wilson, as it was only given to Mrs. Le Brasseur to take to the chemists to save himself the trouble. Mr. Le Brasseur therefore had no claim to the document and the action failed, with costs.

Formulary.

Shaving Paste.

White castile soap	4 ounces.
Spermaceti	½ ounce.
Salad Oil	½ ounce.

Melt together and stir until cold. Scent at will. When properly applied, this paste produces a good lather with either hot or cold water, which does not dry on the face.—*National Druggist.*

Narcotic-free Diarrhea.

The three following mixtures have been proposed for incorporation in the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book:—

Acid Diarrhea Mixture.

Diluted sulphuric acid	1 Cc.
Compound tincture of cardamom	2 Cc.
Sugar	4 grammes.
Spearmint water	11 Cc.

For diarrhea: 8 c.c. in a wineglass of water after each movement of the bowles.

As a tonic: 4 Cc. three times a day.

Tincture Anticholerica.

Aromatic tincture	80 Cc.
Acetic ether	18 Cc.
Oil of peppermint	2 Cc.

Tincture Anticholerica Bastlern.

Tincture of cinnamon	24 Cc.
Spirit of ether	12 Cc.
Oil of juniper berries,	
Oil of cajuput,	
Oil of anise, of each	4 Cc.
Haller's elixir (N. F.)	1 Cc.

These three mixtures contain no opium or other narcotics; their sale, therefore, would not constitute a violation of the Federal or State narcotic laws.

A Chill and Malaria Preparation.

Quinine sulphate	384 grains.
Dilute sulphuric acid, q. s. to dissolve.	
Ferrous sulphate	128 grains.
Aloin	42 2/3 grains.
Water	2 fluid ounces.
Aromatic elixir	8 fluid ounces.
Syrup q.s. ad.	1 pint.

Dissolve the quinine sulphate in the water with the aid of a sufficient quantity of diluted sulphuric acid. Then dissolve the ferrous sulphate in the acid solution. Next dissolve the aloin in the elixir, mix the two solutions, and add sufficient syrup to make the whole measure one pint. The mixture may be coloured red with tincture of cudbear, if desired.—*Bulletin of Pharmacy.*

Potassium Chlorate Tooth Paste.

Precipitated chalk	12 pounds.
Powdered chlorate of potash	20 pounds.
Powdered sugar	4 pounds 10 ounces.
White mineral oil	2 fluid ounces.
Oil of peppermint	8 fluid ounces.
Glycerin	4½ pints.
Water	3 pints.

Pour the water into mixer, gradually add the chlorate of potash, and mix well. Then add the powdered sugar and white mineral oil, and after mixing thoroughly with the chlorate of potash, gradually add the oil of peppermint and glycerin. Finally add the precipitated chalk in very small proportions.—*Bulletin of Pharmacy.*

Tasteless Castor Oil.

Castor oil	14 ounces.
Oil of wintergreen	18 minims.
Oil casia	5 minims.
Saccharin	5 grains.
Alcohol	1 ounce.

Dissolve the oils of wintergreen and casia and saccharin in the alcohol, and add to the castor oil.—*Modern Druggist.*

Nitro Hydrochloric Acid for Boils.

It is now claimed, says the *Modern Druggist*, that nitro hydrochloric acid given in doses of 10 to 15 drops in water after each meal will stop the formation of new boils and have a favourable effect on other similar infections.

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Editorial.

"PHARMACY" AS A PROTECTED TITLE.

An unsuccessful prosecution in Western Australia has demonstrated a weakness in the Pharmacy and Poison law of that State. The firm of Boan Bros., universal providers, established a pharmaceutical department, which it placed in charge of a registered chemist. They advertised the department as "Boan's Pharmacy." A prosecution was instituted by the Pharmaceutical Council, with the result that the magistrate, on the facts, decided that the use of the term, under the circumstances, did not constitute an offence under the Western Australian Act. Having thus gained its point, the firm has increased its advertising, and is making capital of the decision.

The press apparently has taken a hostile attitude of the Pharmaceutical Society. This may either be due to the merits of the defendants' case, or to the fact that the defendants are large advertisers. Be that as it may, we do not see how the Pharmaceutical Society could have done otherwise than test its position. If there is a flaw in the Act, then it is the duty of Parliament to rectify it.

A pharmacist's personal title is protected. Properly so. And if his personal title, why not the place he practises his calling in? Otherwise, of what use or protection is his title? If a dentist, for instance, has his personal title alone preserved to him, and any unqualified person can use the words "dental surgery," would not the public be thereby deceived? And would not such a position be regarded as untenable by the registered dentists?

The Pharmacy Act was passed for the protection of the public, and the protection of the public is not covered merely by the careful dispensing and compounding of medicines. A pharmacist's duties and responsibilities extend further than this. He must, in a strictly personal sense, be held responsible for the purity of the drugs he keeps. His knowledge must extend to a careful scrutiny of such drugs and medicines. The Legislature entrusts him with this duty, and it is a duty which no layman can satisfactorily undertake.

If, as the Pharmacy Act implies, it is illegal to use any title "which can be construed to mean" that a person is a pharmacist, then it would appear to the average person that the term "Boan's Pharmacy" implied that the proprietor was a registered chemist. It must have been the evident intention of the Act to prevent the use of such a term by unregistered persons. If, in practice, it is not so, then the pharmacists of Western Australia have been deceived by

its meaning, and are entitled to redress at the hands of Parliament.

If Parliament thinks otherwise, then why have trained pharmacists at all? Certainly their privileges have been whittled away until very little of value remains. Surely a trained and competent body of men entrusted with serious responsibilities are entitled to some modicum of protection. The papers talk of the monopoly of chemists! Of their exorbitant profits! How there can be a "monopoly" when the door is open to anyone who cares to qualify it is difficult to realise, and "exorbitant profits" are very hard to understand in the light of the severe competition which exists everywhere.

These wiseacres say: "A chemist charges 2s 6d for a bottle of medicine, the ingredients of which only cost him 8d. or 9d." Forsooth. Is the doctor only entitled to the cost of the paper on which he writes his prescription, or the architect or engineer to the material on which he delineates his plans. Does the dentist only charge the intrinsic value of the tooth he replaces on a broken pivot? Of course not! But no one questions the justice of adequate remuneration in such cases. "Professional skill," the critics say, must be recognised. We adopt a different rule with pharmacists. We frankly confess the puzzle is one which we are unable to fathom.

We trust that Western Australian pharmacists will not accept the present position without a fight. The New Zealand Pharmacy Board faced the same position a few years ago, and as the result of an unsuccessful prosecution, it induced Parliament to protect the title of "Pharmacy" in an amending Act. On its merits, the case for the restriction of the title of "Pharmacy" to qualified pharmacists alone cannot logically be opposed by those who have already granted a similar right in respect of such titles as pharmaceutical chemist and druggist, pharmaceutist, etc.

HARASSING REPUTABLE PHARMACISTS.

Some extraordinary prosecutions have taken place in Western Australia for alleged offences under the Venereal Diseases provisions of the Health Act. According to information supplied by the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society the evidence for the prosecution was to say the least not beyond reproach. The cases were all heard *in camera* and it is therefore not possible to give the full details of the informer's evidence. It is fortunate, however, that Mr. Mayhew attended the Court and is in a position to place before the Minister the actual results of the cross examination of the principal departmental witness. Seldom have such glaring instances of over zeal occurred in connection with prosecutions of this nature. It is extremely doubtful if any Minister, with knowledge of the true facts would sanction proceedings based on the class of evidence submitted and we certainly think that the penalty imposed in the first case, in the interests of justice should be remitted and the conviction quashed. Fair administration of the Act cannot be cavilled at, and wilful offenders must expect to be punished, but proceedings such as those which have occurred in Western Australia cannot be allowed to remain unchallenged.

In every other State the Health Departments have treated pharmacists as a reputable body of men and in no instance that we know of have they been subjected to such indignity and annoyance upon such flimsy and uncorroborated evidence.

It is fortunate that when the Victorian Venereal Diseases Bill was introduced the pharmaceutical representatives induced the Minister to insert a clause that all proceedings must be expressly sanctioned by him. This safeguard may not be necessary because the present chairman of the Health Department is a fair minded and impartial administrator and would hardly be likely to take any case to Court unless substantial grounds existed for doing so. His successor may be different and the Western Australian incident justifies the precaution inserted in Victorian Bill.

Pharmacists in Western Australia cannot afford to allow the matter to rest without a strong protest. They owe a duty to themselves to have the obnoxious proceedings withdrawn, and no Minister, we think, with the full facts before him, would hesitate for a moment to severely reprimand any official who was guilty of conduct so unjustifiable and so foreign to British justice and fairness.

The Month.

Pharmacists' Responsibility to the Public.

An impression prevails in some quarters that once a pharmacist has obtained his qualifying certificate his civil liability for the consequences of his negligence is less than if he were unregistered. We cannot conceive of a more erroneous impression. Pharmacists, by reason of their training, are expected to exercise a higher degree of caution than the ordinary individual. They are responsible for the errors of their assistants, unless it can be shown that such errors are due to wilful or malicious misconduct. The issues of life and death are frequently in their hands. Trust in the pharmacists' skill and care is the foundation on which is based the relations between the public and the dispenser. It is therefore incumbent upon every pharmacist to so qualify himself that when a prescription is presented to him, he is able to satisfy himself that the drugs ordered, and no others, are employed in the dispensing of such prescription. The law requires certainty on his part that the drugs he uses will not be employed to produce an effect contrary to the intention for which they are ordered, because of some remissness or oversight on the part of himself or those he employs. If he substitutes one drug for another, he cannot escape civil liability on the pretext that the occurrence was accidental or an innocent mistake. If the supervision of his staff is so lax that a fatal accident occurs by reason of such laxity, he cannot throw the responsibility off his own shoulders. A leading judge recently advanced the opinion that accidents or mistakes should not occur in a pharmacy, and that they cannot occur unless there has been a degree of culpable carelessness. A pharmacist is responsible for the drugs he sells, and there is no good reason, continued the judge, why he should be entitled to a relaxation of the rule which applies to the vendors of other goods, which is that the seller undertakes and is required by the law to see that the goods he sells are pure and wholesome. The higher the standard of personal responsibility in this regard the greater advances pharmacy will make.

Standardising Proprietary Medicines.

An admirable report has been published by the Commission of the American Pharmaceutical Association on the subject of proprietary medicines. Portion of this report is published elsewhere in this issue. The association has endeavoured to reconcile two extremely divergent views. It had to consider the position of the ultra-ethical, who decried all proprietorship in medicine, and the ultra-commercial, who opposed all supervision of proprietary medicines. A midway course was steered. Practical agreement between the wholesale druggists and the better class of retail pharmacists resulted in the drawing up of a scheme which should ultimately greatly benefit both bodies. A typical comment on the report appears in the *American Druggist* for October. That valuable publication says:—"There is no question but that the manufacturers of proprietary remedies have in some cases gone too far in their claims, and have undertaken to treat diseases which at best require the care of a skilled physician. On the other hand, the American people, in fact, the people of all countries, have at all times felt themselves competent to treat their own minor ailments with herbs and roots, simple home remedies, and with these home remedies after they have grown into the category of proprietary medicines; for many of the old fashioned patent medicines are merely the syrups and decoctions of our grandmothers decked out in lithographed cartons and coloured labels to find a larger sale. It is folly to expect that the great mass of the people will abrogate their right to self medication, even though it include, as it does, the danger of self intoxication, merely to meet with the views of those ethical physicians who believe that no man should be permitted to take any medicine except on the advice of a qualified practitioner, and no practitioner should be per-

mitted to prescribe any medicine which has not been scientifically tested in a recognised pharmacological laboratory.' With these views we feel that the majority of Australian pharmacists are in full accord, and we might go further and say that the public as a body would keenly resent any legislation which would deprive them of this time honoured right to seek the pharmacist's advice on the treatment of ailments of a minor nature.

Technical Chemists.

The movement to establish a legal and statutory recognition of technical chemists is one in which pharmacists are vitally interested. Too much importance, therefore, cannot be attached to this proposal.

No one will deny the right of such persons to secure what they are aiming at. At the same time, great care will have to be exercised in dealing with the matter. Unless this is done, pharmacists will wake up one morning and find that the title of "chemist" has been taken away from them. To the public, for generations past, the term "chemist" has had practically one meaning. Not one per cent. of the public uses the term pharmacist. Probably less refer to the chemist as a druggist. All over the British Empire the pharmacist is known as "the chemist." And his claim to such a title is not unsupported by facts. Apart from usage, the training of the modern pharmaceutical chemist includes a thorough education in chemistry. It forms the principal subject of his examinations, not only from a pharmaceutical standpoint, but as a pure science. To filch the title from him would neither be fair nor just. He is as much entitled to use the word as many others are who seek to come in under the aegis of the new proposal. Pharmaceutical chemists should therefore make their position clear. If there is to be any State registration of technical chemists, they have a right to be included in the scheme by virtue of their training and calling, to say nothing of their vested right to the title. Secondly, they must insist that the legalised right to the title by others will not be a contributing cause to undermining the principles of pharmaceutical legislation. There are many pitfalls in the proposal, and it is wise to consider the subject from all its standpoints before any decision is arrived at. A false step may jeopardise the future of every pharmacist. If the standard of membership of the proposed Institute of Chemists is of such an advanced nature that the claims of pharmaceutical chemists to inclusion are deemed to be insufficient, it should be possible to arrange a *modus vivendi* whereby a further course could be taken to secure membership. Regarding the title, the term "Chemical Engineer" has been adopted by several leading technical chemists. Such a title could not be objected to by pharmaceutical chemists, and the fact that leading members of the profession use it is a sufficient designation of its value and utility.

Pharmaceutical Representation in Parliament.

The retirement of Mr. W. S. Glyn Jones, M.P., from British Parliamentary life on account of ill-health is an event which deserves mention in these pages. Not the least memorable part of his brilliant career is that period of his life which has been devoted to conserving the interests of pharmacists in the British House of Commons since he became a member of that body. His highly successful work in connection with the momentous National Insurance Acts is too well known to require further approbation here. To leave British pharmacy unrepresented in the Legislature now in the midst of the present harassing and perilous conditions would be calamitous. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, after giving very careful consideration to the question, has decided that W. J. Uglow Woolcock, the present secretary, should seek a seat in the House of Commons, and that he should be regarded as the Society's official candidate. The Society's Parliamentary Fund is being augmented with the object of giving appropriate assistance to Mr. Woolcock's candidature. As a speaker, thinker and organiser, and a man thoroughly conversant with Parliamentary and departmental affairs, Mr. Woolcock's claims to follow Mr. Glyn Jones are based on the assurance that, if elected, he will not be an unworthy successor to his distinguished friend and colleague.

New South Wales.

(From Our Sydney Correspondent.)

Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

The regular monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board was held at the Board Rooms, Richmond Terrace, Domain, Sydney, on Dec. 12, at 3 p.m.

Present.—Messrs. A. Wadsworth, W. Short, Ll. P. Williams, T. S. Loney, J. Dixson, and J. Duncan. In the absence of the President, Capt. A. Wadsworth was elected chairman for the sitting.

Welcome to Mr. J. Duncan.—Capt. Wadsworth said that, on the occasion of Mr. John Duncan taking his seat as a member of the Board for the first time, he desired, on behalf of the members of the Board, to welcome him. Mr. Duncan was already associated with them in the work of the Council, and he was sure that Mr. Duncan's services as a member of the Board would prove of service to pharmacy.

Mr. Duncan thanked the chairman for his welcome.

Complaint against a Pharmacist.—The Secretary of the Pharmacy Board of Tasmania wrote, calling attention to a handbill circulated in that State from Mr. V. A. Wawn, a pharmacist in Sydney. The handbill contained a statement that advertiser is a "M.P.S.A.," and held the highest qualifications as a pharmacist in Victoria and New South Wales. He also advertised that he cured catarrh, etc. The chairman said that the wording of the advertisement was largely a matter of taste, and he thought that it was quite out of their power to take any action in the matter. In a sense, Mr. Wawn did hold the highest qualifications that a pharmacist could hold, inasmuch as all registered pharmacists were on an equal plane. They were fully qualified under the Pharmacy Act and registered accordingly, and no man could hold any higher qualification, as there was nothing higher to hold. The Registrar stated that Mr. Wawn had been to see him on the matter, and he had given him certain advice which he thought would meet the case. The communication was received.

It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Pharmacy Board of Tasmania, stating that at present the Pharmacy Board of this State could not take any action in such a matter, but that action regarding all such advertising in the State of New South Wales was under consideration.

The Sale of Phosphorus.—A copy of the Commonwealth Defence Department Statutory Rule No. 282, prohibiting the sale of phosphorus, was received. This rule prohibits the sale of this substance without the written authority of a competent military or naval authority or of a police constable. Also the sale of any substance or article, the effect of which or upon or by the use of which by a recruit may result in a medical officer being deceived as to the normal mental or physical condition of a recruit, is prohibited and made an offence. The letter was received.

Proclamation re Phosphorus.—A letter was received from the Treasury, asking that the required form be forwarded in order that phosphorus may be proclaimed a poison under the first schedule of the Poisons Act, and placed on this schedule for the better regulation of the sale. The Registrar was instructed to take the proper steps regarding the placing of this poison on the first sheedule.

"Aspirin" and "Lysol."—A letter was received from the Prime Minister's Department, stating that the matter of prohibiting the use of the enemy trade marks, "Aspirin" and "Lysol," would receive consideration. The communication was formally received.

Poisons in Beverage Bottles.—The Director of Public Health wrote that the alleged practice of manufacturers placing poisons into bottles used for containing food, and without proper labels, would be looked into. Mr. Short said that it was not a question of labelling so much as the using of this class of bottle at all that they objected to. The danger was in using a class of bottle which usually contained a harmless beverage for a highly poisonous liquid. It was not merely a question that these bottles were sometimes not labelled according to the requirements of the law.

The Registrar stated that a large number of prosecutions were pending and the matter would be thoroughly gone into as soon as the cases were called on in the courts.

Sheep Dip Query.—Mr. Harry Shelly wrote asking if sheep dip containing less than 3 per cent. of phenol came under the Act. It was resolved to send a reply that such dips were exempt.

A similar question regarding the labelling of a sheep dip from another Sydney merchant, resulted in the Board instructing the Registrar to inform the writer that the sheep dip powder was labelled according to the requirements of the Poisons Act.

A Mixture Containing Poison.—Mr. W. V. Weale wrote, stating that an inspector had cautioned storekeepers against selling his mixture, Marhe's Famous Aniseed Cure, as a cough mixture, because it contained poison. He stated that the only poison the mixture contained was 1 per cent. of chloroform, and if the Board would allow him to sell out the stocks in hand, he would not place any chloroform in future batches manufactured by him. It was resolved to reply that the Board had no power to grant any such request, or to make any concession of the nature asked for.

The Sale of Cyanide.—A communication was received from the Treasury with a note from the City Coroner. At the inquest on the body of Mary Ethel Hurcum, who died at Summer Hill, on Nov. 3, the Coroner found that deceased died of cyanide poisoning, self administered. He added: "I invite attention of the proper authorities to the fact disclosed in the evidence that such a deadly poison can be sold to photographers without any safeguard." It was resolved to point out that, according to the Poisons Act, the provisions of the Act excluded poisons used in photography. Nothing could be done without an Amended Poisons Act being passed.

Inspector's Report.—The Board's Inspector reported that he had visited the South Coast district and found about 20 cases of infringement of the sale of Poisons Act.

Transfer to the Minister for Health.—A letter was received from the Premier's Department, informing the Board that the Premier had approved of the control of the Pharmacy Board being transferred from the Treasury to the Minister for Public Health. A further letter explained that the transfer was purely a departmental one, and with a view to better organisation of the public service. The letters were received.

Country Traders' Association.—A letter was received from the Secretary of this Association, asking the Board if it could furnish the Association with a list of proprietary articles that country traders may not sell, as this would be a great convenience to the members, who, under the present circumstances, did not know what articles came under the provisions of the Poisons Act. Mr. W. Short pointed out that a schedule of poisons was issued. It was not possible for the Board to say what proprietary articles contained poisons and what did not, especially as some manufacturers were taking poisons out of the formulæ for their preparations to enable such articles to be sold generally. It was resolved to reply, stating that the Board found it practically not possible to compile such a list.

Treasurer's Statement.—The Board was shown to have £277 18s. 6d. to its credit.

Pharmacy Act Registrations.—J. F. M'Tiernan, of Haberfield (passed Final), and J. F. M'Carthy, of Goulburn (Ph.C. of Vict.), were granted registration as pharmacists.

Poisons Act Registrations.—J. F. M'Tiernan and J. F. M'Carthy were granted pharmacists' poisons licenses. 2 annual licenses were granted to storekeepers.

In Lieu of Preliminary.—L. N. Pattinson and Doris A. Read applied to have their matriculation passes of Sydney University recognised in lieu of Preliminary Examination. Granted. J. P. Taylor applied to have his Intermediate Pass accepted.—Granted. In the case of Stanislaus Doyle, the Preliminary Examiners recommended that his pass in Junior Grade Education Board of Ireland be accepted in lieu of Preliminary.—Granted.

Registration of Indentures.—Heather Bell M'Gregor to H. A. Rose and V. P. M'Mahon, term 3 years. L. N. Pattinson to L. M. Pattinson, of Sydney, term 3 years. Registration granted.

Managers Registered.—The Registrar reported that he had received the names of three managers, entered according to the new law on the matter.

The Board adjourned.

Technical College Examination.

Owing to the shortage of lighting accommodation at the Sydney Technical College, the examinations which should have been held at the end of November and the beginning of December could not be held. The results of the year's work will therefore be computed from the term examinations, and the proficiency shown in these examinations will be taken in place of the annual examinations which could not be held. This is not regarded as very satisfactory by the students, who always expect to do better at the final examinations of the year than they did at term examinations. Students who have done satisfactorily in the term examinations will be considered to have passed the examination entitling them to pass on to the next year's course.

State Laboratory.

The Premier recently stated that the Government contemplated erecting a State laboratory for research work, and had it not been for the disturbed state of the political world, the building would by this time have been in the course of erection. It is proposed to expend the sum of £20,000 on the building, but up to the present the site for the same has not been fixed. The laboratory will be equipped with all the most modern appliances for research work, and it is expected that the establishment will be far in advance of anything that has hitherto been provided either for the Sydney University or the Sydney Technical College.

Royal Society.

At the monthly meeting of the Royal Society of New South Wales, held at the Royal Society's House, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, on Dec. 6, Professor W. E. Cooke and Mr. F. B. Cooke contributed a paper on "Wireless Time Signals." Professor Cooke gave a description of the new wireless apparatus installed at Sydney Observatory, and said that they were especially fortunate in obtaining the latest form of Audion detector, by which means they could cover a distance quite impossible with the instruments formerly employed. Recently they had experienced no difficulty in hearing conversations from Darien, Japan, Honolulu, and San Francisco, and even Tuckertown (New Jersey), 10,000 miles away, had been heard talking with Berlin. Dr. Pigot, S.J., read a paper on the Foucault Pendulum, which enabled accurate records of the earth's rotation to be obtained, and gave details of work in progress in Sydney, which would be communicated in a later paper, when complete.

Rare Metals Association.

For a considerable time past the producers of molybdenite, bismuth, wolfram, scheelite, and antimony have been dissatisfied with the price paid them, and an influential meeting of owners was recently held in Sydney to take steps to secure more equitable treatment. The entire business passes through the hands of Messrs. Dalgety and Co., under arrangement with the Commonwealth Government, and it is contended that the producers do not get a fair price for their products. For ore which the Canadians get £800 per ton the Australian producer only receives £500. Other ores which Australians have to sell for £700 per ton the Canadians are getting £1100 per ton. A strong association of owners has been formed with the object of ob-

taining a freer hand in dealing with their products, and a better market rate for them. Mr. W. G. Yates was the only producer who stated that he was satisfied with the prices at present received in Sydney. Mr. Scantlebury said that he did not complain so much about the price as he did of the business methods pursued in the matter. He said that both Imperial and Federal methods of dealing with the business were foolish, and unbusinesslike. He attributed this state of things to official ignorance. A Committee was appointed to deal with the matters discussed.

Valuable Oil Discovery.

It has been reported that petroleum oil springs have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Penrith, on the banks of the Nepean River. The discovery is said to have been made by a visiting oil expert from the United States, who was so satisfied with the prospects of the discovery that he has secured the option of a considerable tract of country, and will proceed to test the supposed find by erecting an oil boring plant. The discovery has caused considerable excitement in the district.

Daylight Saving.

Considerable disappointment has been expressed by business people in Sydney at the abandonment of the Daylight Saving Bill, which was recently introduced by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Fuller, and read a second time on Nov. 23. The Government announced on Nov. 30 that the Cabinet had decided to abandon the measure at least for this summer. It appears that the party who support the Holman Ministry, while in favour of the measure, have to face the fact that a large and influential number of their constituents are opposed to it. Several firms have adopted a measure of daylight saving. The Australian Drug Co. and Elliott Brothers Limited now open at 8 a.m. for their working hands, and 8.30 a.m. for their office staff; all hands cease work at 5 p.m. The Coastal Farmers Co-operative Company used to start at 9 a.m. and cease work at 5.30 p.m. Now they start an hour earlier and knock off an hour earlier, and intend to continue the practice, in spite of the failure to pass the Daylight Saving Bill. It is understood that pharmacists generally supported the Bill, and especially the Early Closers. It is still expected in Sydney that Mr. Hughes will bring in a Daylight Saving regulation under the provisions of the War Precautions Act.

Julius Blau's Bond.

Mr. Justice Street, sitting in Equity, on Nov. 28, was asked to sanction a compromise in an action now before the High Court of Australia, in which the Commonwealth claimed from Julius Blau, formerly a merchant of York-street, a forfeited bond of £6000. The matter arose out of Blau's visit to America, under a bond that he would not trade with the enemy nor use any enemy capital nor communicate with enemy countries nor do anything disloyal. This bond, it is claimed, was broken, and the amount declared forfeited. It was suggested that the judgment should be assigned to the Crown, and that the Crown in turn should assign its interest to the British and Colonial creditors. The assets of the company are £4990, the liabilities to British and Colonial creditors are £7296, and there are also debts to enemy creditors amounting to £5713. Judgment was delivered on Dec. 5, in which his Honour refused to sanction the compromise. If such were allowed foreign creditors would be deprived of their legal rights. The fact that foreign creditors were enemy subjects or resident in enemy countries did not disentitle them to protection and consideration. The liquidator was allowed to retain his costs out of the estate.

An Echo of the Coal Strike.

Mr. H. D. B. Cox, President of the Northern Sydney Pharmacists' Association, in the course of an interview, which was published in the Sydney *Sun* during the coal strike, said:—"The position that has arisen out of the refusal of exemption of chemists from the gas and electric lighting prohibition in the dispensing of medicines, is really grave, and calls for co-operation on the part of the public. Chemists, in the course of their business, are required to handle and dispense highly poisonous drugs and chemicals and inflammable spirits, ethers, etc. For the safety of the sick public and provision aganst fire and explosion, daylight or the best of fixed artificial lighting is almost imperative. Dispensing or handling drugs under other conditions is difficult and dangerous, not alone to the chemist, but also to the public. So gravely is this matter viewed by chemists that many of them are refusing to dispense prescriptions with precarious light at night time; while others are solving the problem by closing their pharmacies at 7 p.m. The public can overcome almost all the difficulty by doing their business during daylight hours."

Poisoning Cases.

Death from Drinking a Mixture.—A child named Jack Walters Wilson, aged two and a half years, living with his parents at Auburn, died on November 28 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, from strychnia poisoning. At the inquest evidence was given that a bottle of medicine, prescribed for the child's mother, was in the bedroom when the child got hold of the medicine and drank about three tablespoonsful of it. Dr. Rice stated that he had prescribed a mixture of quinine and strychnia for the mother. Three tablespoonsful might be a fatal dose for a child. The bottle was not labelled poison, and he did not think that there was any necessity for it to be so labelled. Most medicines were poisonous if you took enough of them. He considered it very strange that a child should drink such a bitter mixture. The father stated that when he took the child to the hospital he did not know that he had taken his mother's medicine. Every effort was made at the hospital to save the child's life. The Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death.

Cyanide Poisoning.—An inquest was held at Sydney on November 1st, touching the cause of death of John Plant Wright, who was found dead in his office at Daking House, Rawson-place. Deceased appears to have made up a solution of the poison and drank it. He was suffering from in-

[illegible] It was stated that people who did photographic work had no difficulty in buying this possession of any of the photographic stock wire-houses.

Occurrence at Times.—A serious accident took place at the office of the *Sunday Times* on the morning of Nov. 26. Owing to the coal strike, the proprietors of the office had installed two 48h.p. engines which were driving two 55h.p. generators for electric power. The joints of the exhausts were said to be imperfect, but evidently the fault was due to imperfect combustion, and a quantity of imperfectly combusted vapour penetrated the offices and overcame twenty men. The fact was noticed, but the men were so anxious to get their work done that they continued to work in the vitiated atmosphere, and eventually the fumes laid out twenty of them, including the managing director, Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh. The poison was said to be due to escaping carbon monoxide. Six of the men were removed to the Sydney Hospital, and the others were sent home in motor cars. All eventually recovered. Great credit is due to Mr. Claude Corbett, managing editor, for his efforts in removing the sufferers, but eventually he himself had to be removed to the hospital.

Morphia.—Robert Clarke (63), pharmacist, at the Rock, N.S.W., was found dead at his pharmacy recently. Medical evidence was given to the effect that deceased died from the effects of morphia. A verdict of death from morphia poisoning, self-administered, was returned. Mr. Clarke was in business at Young for many years. His father established a pharmacy there in the early days.

Oxide of Zinc.—At an inquest recently held at Sydney, it was stated that a child, one year of age, ate a portion of oxide of zinc, and died from the effects. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Births & Deaths.

BIRTH.

SHAW.—On the 22nd October, at Nurse Baud's private hospital, Nagambie, the wife of A. Shaw, chemist, Nagambie—a daughter.

DEATHS.

LANGTON.—On the 17th December, at Surbiton, Walpole Street, Kew, Rivers Langton, J.P., dearly loved father of William and Adelaide Langton, Julia Fussell, and Elizabeth Gracewood, in his 81st year.

ON SERVICE.

BISSET.—Killed in action in France, on November 14, Eric Sid of Hobart Road, Murrumbeena, second youngest son of the late John and Alice Bisset.

NICHOLAS.—Killed in action in France, on the 14th November, Major George Matson Nicholas, D.S.O., aged 29, dearly beloved eldest son of Mr. J. P. Nicholas, chemist, Trafalgar, and beloved husband of Emily Hilda Rix, daughter of the late Henry Finch Rix, B.A., Inspector of Schools, and the late Mrs. Rix, of South Yarra.

Victoria.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on December 11.

Present.—The President (Mr. C. E. Towl), in the chair, and Messrs. Bailey, Buckhurst, Pleay, Gulliver, Jewkes, and Sayer.

Correspondence.—Letters outwards Nos. 870 to 1179 were minuted, and included the following:—

To the Victorian Master Ironmongers' Association, stating that the provisions of the Poisons Act applied to the sale of "Daisy" Fly Killer, which was an arsenical preparation, and could only be sold by qualified persons.

The Minister for Public Works, Mr. W. A. Adamson, M.L.C., stating that the Medical Bill, which required the full signature of doctors on all prescriptions, was, in the opinion of the Board, a necessary measure. A copy of a leading article from the *British Medical Journal* was also forwarded to the Minister. This article stated that the reform now proposed was "obviously reasonable," and should be applied to prescriptions generally.

The Union Trustee Co., executors under the will of the late Mr. Frank C. Lawson, North Melbourne, applied for permission to continue the business under the management of Mr. Henry Lewis, registered chemist. It was resolved that a permit for 12 months from the 1st October, 1916, be granted, on legal proof of Mr. Lawson's death being submitted to the Board.

The Pharmacy Board of Tasmania wrote directing attention to an advertisement of Mr. V. A. Wawn, in the Hobart papers, to which exception was taken, and a request was made to the Board, asking that it might do something to compel Mr. Wawn to discontinue the advertisement on its present lines. The Registrar stated that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society had already taken steps to prevent Mr. Wawn illegally using the letters "M.P.S.A." in his advertisements. It was resolved to bring the advertisement under the notice of the Chief Secretary as another illustration of the necessity of disciplinary powers being granted to the Board.

Mr. J. F. Ogle, Maryborough, wrote asking if an apprentice he was about to take could attend the lectures at the College of Pharmacy after she had completed her four years' apprenticeship. To be informed that the lectures could be attended at any time after apprenticeship commenced.

Mr. A. E. Serpell, North Carlton, wrote asking whether the recent Act, giving the Board power to exempt portion of apprenticeship for students on military service applied also to home service. Mr. Serpell to be informed that, if volunteered or enlisted in the Australian Imperial Military Forces, either for home or foreign service, his application for exemption could be dealt with. The President stated that it did not necessarily follow that every apprentice would receive the

full 12 months' remission, as the Board intended to deal with each application on its merits.

Mrs. Esther McCormack, North Fitzroy, wrote stating that she had passed the Preliminary Examination in 1892, but had no documentary evidence of having served her apprenticeship. She stated that two pharmacists were in a position to verify that she was assisting her father (a registered chemist) practically as an apprentice for a period of 2½ years. She desired to know whether the Board could accept this as portion of the 4 years' apprenticeship. It was resolved that a reply be sent stating that the Board had no power to dispense with the prescribed conditions, which require all indentures to be registered three months after the date of their execution.

A communication was forwarded to Messrs. Geo. Wills and Co. Ltd., drawing their attention to the fact that a poisonous disinfectant known as "Losyl" had been sent out by them unlabelled as required by the Poisons Act. A reply was received stating that a few tins had been delivered unlabelled from their bulk store contrary to instructions. They had, however, now made such arrangements as would effectively preclude a recurrence of the trouble.

The Vapo-Cresolene Co., New York, wrote thanking the Board for its suggestions in reference to the alteration of the labels on their preparation, "Vapo-Cresolene." The suggested changes had been carefully considered, and they were going to follow them out as soon as the present supply of labels was exhausted. They thought that the proposal to have the word "poison" printed in red would be an added protection.

Dr H. J. Holmes, Warrnambool, submitted a series of questions in reference to the interpretation of certain provisions of the Medical Act, and asked for the Board's opinion thereon. The following reply was forwarded:—

Under the Medical Act only qualified chemists can own or carry on the business of a chemist and druggist.

A firm carrying on under a trade name such as "Jones and Co." can only legally do so so long as all the partners are registered chemists.

"A," being a registered chemist carrying on as "Jones and Co.," and "B," financing the business to some extent, "B" could not exercise any control over the business, and could not be identified in any way with its management.

If "A" went to the war, the business would still have to be carried on by "A" under the management of a duly qualified *locum tenens*.

If "A" died, his executors could carry on (subject to the permission of the Board) for a period of 12 months under the management of a registered chemist.

If "A" left the business, "B" would have no remedy except to take over "A's" assets, and sell them to another registered chemist.

If "B" were a registered medical practitioner, his position would not be very different, as he could not carry on as a chemist, being only entitled under the Medical Act to dispense his own preparations at his dispensary. He could not use the title of "chemist and druggist, pharmacist, etc."

A country pharmacist wrote asking if he could continue to carry on his business if he put a qualified manager in charge. He was informed that there was nothing to prevent him doing so provided the manager's name was exhibited on the premises, and that the Board was informed accordingly.

The Director, Bendigo School of Mines, wrote asking whether the Board could not see its way to pay a fee for supervising candidates at the Preliminary Examination. It was resolved that a reply be sent stating that the Board had no funds available for this purpose.

Application for Registration.—Mr. Samuel Adamson, 171 Chapel-street, Prahran, pharmaceutical chemist, Ireland, applied for registration, which was granted.

Enrolment of Managers.—Mr. W. H. Ware, manager of the Newport U.F.S. Dispensary; Mr. S. H. Sims, manager for Mr. R. S. Younger, Warrnambool.

Apprentices' Indentures Registered.—Jean H. Downey to J. N. Woolcott, Warrnacknabeal; Louisa A. Ogle to J. F. Ogle, Maryborough; Catherine W. Adam to Messrs. Rankin and Eyval, Elsternwick; Maisie B. Murphy to Miss Sara McDonough, East Melbourne; Hilda R. MacIntosh to W. T. Woodhouse, St. Kilda.

Poisons Licences.—The poisons licence held by Colin McLean, Meeniyan, was transferred to James Neish.

Renewals of licences to country storekeepers were granted to 90 applicants.

Erasure of Names.—The President reported that he had received an official intimation from the Defence Department of the death of his son Douglas, on the 23rd August, 1916. He did not think any further proof of death was available. On the motion of Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Buckhurst, it was resolved that the name of Douglas E. Towl, killed on active service in France, be erased from the Register.

The names of John Victor Kissell and Thomas Tyson were ordered to be erased from the Register for non-compliance with section 90 of the Medical Act 1915.

Pharmaceutical Register for 1917.—The Registrar laid on the table a draft copy of the Pharmaceutical Register for the year 1917, which, on completion, was ordered to be forwarded to the Government Printer for insertion in the *Gazette*.

Police Reports.—Two cases of "Septol" poisoning were reported by the police; and one each of Carbosy', Salts of Lemon and Poisoned Wheat. Two cases of Strychnine poisoning were also reported. The police stated that apart from the manufacturer's name there was nothing on the label to indicate who was the actual seller of the strychnine. In one instance the strychnine was found to have been purchased from a chemist in New South Wales. The poison was not coloured pink, as required by the Poisons Act.

The [illegible] engaged [illegible] investigations, stated that he found it to be [illegible] grocers and farmers to obtain stuff from the warehouses in Melbourne by purchasing one or more bottles at a time.

Pharmacy Examinations.—The following report was received from the Examiners:—

Preliminary Examination (Latin, Arithmetic, English, Algebra and Euclid), held at Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Launceston, Mildura, Warrnambool, Warracknabeal, Maryborough, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Kerang, Rutherglen, Warrnambool and Daylesford.—Marjory H. White, Ralph V. Painter, Keith Dimoon, Leela Smedley, Roy St. Dowling, Ranla Thornton, John H. Beyer, Nelly Stevens, Eric C. Wheeler, Edith Frankel, Barbara F. Barrett, Veronica Parer, Chandler, Gwendoline E. Bucknall, Flora V. Beaumont, Mary F. King, Angus C. McIntyre, Frances Harvey, Walter J. F. Blyth, Ina Stark, Maud F. MacGillivray, Alice C. Treagus, Louis Wustemann, Alan L. Noye, Martha [illegible], George F. Desmond, Thomas Griffin.

The following are eligible to take the subjects selected at a subsequent examination:—

Latin—Albert J. Baker, Clifford H. Crowther, Violet M. Hands, Sibyl Taylor, Thomas E. Jury, Arthur Byron, Lyola F. Davis, Keith Norris, Leila M. Walder. Arithmetic—Cecil R. Reeve, Ethe M. Vigar. Geometry—Keith Goodisson. Latin and Arithmetic—Grace M. Waddell.

Intermediate Examination (Chemistry, Practical Chemistry and Botany).—The following passed in the order of merit in which their names appear:—

Sara Wurtzel Wolfe, Jean G. Rountree, Henry [illegible] Pegg, Martha Kelsall, Arthur E. Clemence, Gavan F. Robertson, Matthew C. Patrick, Ruby Prince, Carl A. Broberg, Douglas F. Robertson, Percy M. De Fraga, Gordon S. Eluck, John T. Stanley, Sylvia P. Mitchell, Michael J. Carroll, Hubert S. Reilly.

The following candidates are eligible to take the subject not passed at a subsequent examination:—Sidney William E. Thorn.

Final Qualifying Examination.—Practical Pharmacy.—The following passed in the order of merit in which their names appear:—Doris Alison, Simon Friedman.

The following candidates are eligible to take the subjects not passed at a subsequent examination:—Section I. Paper A.—C. Reader, A. V. Vanderwerk, G. W. Lee.

The Registrar reported the following statistics:—

	Passed	Partially Passed	Failed
Preliminary	[illegible]	13	18
Intermediate	[illegible]	[illegible]	9
Final	[illegible]	1	2
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	17	29

The reports were received and adopted.

Prescribed Text Book.—The Preliminary Examiner wrote stating that the University had dispensed with a set text book in English, and had substituted a play of Shakespeare's, a novel of Scott's and the Golden Treasury for poetry. He suggested that either the present text book might be continued for a further twelve months, or that one of Scott's romances and suitable selections from the Golden Treasury be set for candidates for the Preliminary for the year 1917-18. The Board resolved to adopt the latter recommendation so as nearly as possible to the University selection.

General Business.—The Registrar reported that prosecutions were pending at Ararat and Horsham for infringements of the Poisons Act. It was resolved to postpone the cases until the January sittings of the Court, as there were no police magistrates available during the present month.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Bailey, submitted the monthly financial statement.

Before adjourning, the President said that this was the last meeting of the year, and he desired to thank the members of the Board for their regular attendance and for the conscientious manner in which they had dealt with all matters which came before them during the past twelve months. He also desired to take advantage of the opportunity to extend to them his best wishes for the coming year.

The meeting then adjourned.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on December 6th.

Present.—The Vice President (Mr. H. B. Taylor) in the chair, and Messrs. Bailey, Francis, Gabriel, Innes, Lee, Leete, Owen and Pickford.

Apologies for non-attendance from Major Cossar, and Messrs. Champion and Kermot.

Correspondence.—Mr. J. H. Smith, Richmond, applied to be placed on the Life Members' List, having been a continuous subscribing member for the past 20 years. It was resolved that the request be complied with, and that a letter be sent to Mr. Smith, thanking him for his loyal support over so long a period.

Melbourne University, asking for nominations of a representative of the College on the Faculty of Medicine for the year 1917. Resolved that the name of Dr. Sidney Plowman be submitted.

Letters from the front were received from Staff Sergeants J. W. Nobbs and F. G. Thomas, forwarding interesting information re conditions of service abroad.

Mr. A. B. Cowling, Secretary Chemists' Defence Association, wrote for particulars of labour conditions in Victoria in respect to chemists' employees. The Secretary reported having furnished the information asked for.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, and Captains R. C. Cowley, R. D. Fox, and W. B. Drake, expressing their warm appreciation of the kindness shown to the visiting delegates to the

military conference during their recent stay in Melbourne.

Mr. W. B. Barnard, Maryborough (Queensland), asking for particulars re proposed recognition of the pharmaceutical curriculum as an entrance to the University. A reply was sent stating that the Pharmacy Board had this matter in hand, but that so far nothing definite had been decided.

Board of Health, forwarding amended regulation re exemption of certain medicines from Regulation 71 (Declaration of Drugs).

Election of New Members.—The following new members were balloted for, and elected:—

Full Members.—Adelhard M. Ulrich, Moonee Ponds, and Frederick W. Every, Foster.

Associate Member.—John F. M'Carthy, Moonee Ponds.

Opium Proclamation.—The Comptroller-General for Customs wrote, asking the opinion of the Society as to whether Liq. Opii Sed. and Liquid Extract of Opium Miscible (B.W. & Co.) were largely used prior to February, 1916, when their importation was prohibited, and if pharmacists had suffered any considerable hardship or inconvenience as the result of the prohibition. At present only official extracts and tinctures of the B.P. and standardised preparations, such as—

Battley's Liquor Opii Sedativus;
Ferri's Nepenthe;
Sydenham's Laudanum;
Squire's Liquor Meconicus; and
Oppenheimer's Nepintegen,

were allowed to be imported by licensed persons. The question had now again arisen whether the other two preparations referred to should be allowed to come in. It was resolved that a reply be forwarded stating that, in the opinion of the Council, pharmacists had suffered some inconvenience in consequence of the prohibition of the importation of Liq. Opii Sed., and Liquid Extract of Opium Miscible, both of which (prior to the date of the prohibition order) were fairly largely used in Victoria for bona fide medicinal purposes. A further recommendation was made that Liq. Opii Sed. of definitely known strength and composition should be permitted to be imported under license, and sold to retail pharmacists, subject to the usual conditions as to use.

Checking Use of Morphine.—A communication was received from the Comptroller-General for Customs stating that, as the result of exhaustive inquiries, the following scale of average quantities of opium allowed to be supplied to a retail pharmacist per annum was adopted in June, 1915—

Solid Extract	2 ozs. per annum.
Liquid Extract	13 „ „ „
Tinct. Opii	14 lbs. „ „
Gum Opii	5 ozs. „ „

The letter further stated that, in framing such a scale, there was no intention of placing any restriction on the supply of the drug for perfectly legitimate purposes. Larger quantities were available when inquiry showed that they were being bona fide used for medicinal purposes only.

The department had now reason to believe that, owing to the above restrictions, the use of Morphia in certain parts of the Commonwealth had been increasing, and that this was attributable, to some extent, to its use for improper purposes in lieu of opium.

In order to obtain reliable data the Council was asked to state what was the approximate quantity of morphine and its salts required per annum, for bona fide medicinal use only, by a retail pharmacist in an average way of business.

After consideration, it was resolved that a reply be forwarded that, in the opinion of the Council, 2 ozs. of morphine and its salts was a fair average quantity to provide for. In certain cases larger quantities were used, but as provision existed for obtaining further supplies for legitimate use, no hardships would arise, it was thought, if the scale were amplified so as to allow the use of 2 ozs. per annum by each retail pharmacist.

Enemy Trade Marks.—It was resolved to endorse the protest made by the pharmaceutical organisations of New South Wales in respect to the perpetuation of enemy-coined trade names, particularly those of "Aspirin" and "Lysol." A communication on the subject was received from Mr. T. Hislop Dick, enclosing copy of proposed letter to be sent to the Prime Minister. The secretary stated that the President (Major Cossar) had made certain representations, which it was thought would have a good effect. It was decided to forward a letter to the Prime Minister, stating that the Council would welcome the total prohibition of the use of enemy-coined names in respect of the sale of any goods, whether of enemy origin or otherwise.

"Astropin" and "Atropine."—Mr. Bailey drew attention to the similarity between the word "Astropin," which it was proposed to register as a trade mark, and the alkaloid, "Atropine." He thought that the attention of registrar of trade marks should be drawn to the matter. The secretary was instructed to write accordingly.

The Title, "M.P.S.A."—Complaints having been made regarding the illegal use of the title "M.P.S.A." by Mr. V. A. Wawn, Sydney, the matter was placed in the solicitor's hands, who wrote stating that unless the practice complained of was immediately discontinued, proceedings would have to be taken to put a stop to it. In reply, Mr. Wawn wrote that he had acted in ignorance, and that he would be pleased to comply with the wishes of the Council in regard to the matter. It was resolved that, provided the use of the title was discontinued at once further proceedings would not be taken.

Lecturers' Reports for 1916.—

Chemistry.—Owing to the illness of the lecturer (Mr. Craig), no report was submitted.

Materia Medica and Pharmacy.—I have the honour to present my report for the year. The commencing of the Monday lecture at 9.30 a.m., which was adopted last year, shows its value in providing extra time for handling of specimens, microscopic and other practical work, though the always increasing field of Materia Medica makes the year short enough, and leads up to the thought that one day it will be necessary to extend the course beyond one year. The B.P. has dropped some plants and products of plants,

[illegible] what has been done; but we feel [illegible] importance to [illegible] the [illegible] of the importance of identifying [illegible] plants and [illegible] that the [illegible] of these must [illegible] to Victoria [illegible] [illegible] were examined. Amongst others, were Aconite, Digitalis, Broom, and Pimpinella. In the normal [illegible] these [illegible] [illegible] Organotherapeutics [illegible] [illegible] have to [illegible] considerable [illegible] Practical [illegible] the constituents of the urinary thyroid, supra-renal and pituitary glands in the [illegible] was made.

I [illegible] on the [illegible] time at my disposal to teach [illegible] what is known about microbes and [illegible]

A [illegible] was devoted to pharmacy, and the necessity for these lectures is [illegible] more apparent than before. Some of the students had never made a castor oil emulsion, and were surprised at the ease and quickness with which it was accomplished. A high percentage had never previously seen a pill [illegible] [illegible] Latin was other matters. I hammered away at the Metric System all through the lectures, and I think now that each member of the class is impressed there is no [illegible] in the system, and that it is the correct thing.

The examination for the class prizes was held on Monday, November 27, and resulted as to [illegible]—Jean Rountree, 81 per cent.; Henry C. Bray, 77 per cent.; Minnie Kelsall, 75 per cent. I recommend accordingly. Jean Rountree with the lecturer's cross.

This [illegible] was the most orderly [illegible] [illegible] and very well behaved. I cannot conclude without acknowledging the splendid help and [illegible] of Mr. Parry.

T. P. [illegible], Lecturer.

[illegible] I have [illegible] to present a report on the work done by the pharmaceutical students of the second year during the [illegible]

The [illegible] of students attending the lectures [illegible] [illegible] of the previous year, but still falls [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

Francis, Gabriel, Imes, Owen, Lee, Lecte, and Pickford. Apologies from Major Cossar, who was in Western Australia, and Mr. Kernot, absent through illness.

Correspondence.—Mr. V. A. Wawn, re improper use of title "M.P.S.A." Mr. Wawn wished to know why he could not use these letters. To be informed that he could not use them because he was not a member of the Society.

Mr. F. C. Kent, Clerk to the College, relating some of his experiences in France, at the Somme front. The Vice-President said he was pleased to hear that Mr. Kent was well, and still doing good work for his country.

Election of New Members.—Mr. William A. Ross, 180 Collins-street, Melbourne, was elected a full member of the Society.

Prices of Infants' Foods.—Secretary reported having arranged a roster of pharmacists who would be available to give evidence before the Price Commissioner, when he was dealing with matters affecting chemists.

Venereal Bill.—Report received that Clause 5 of this Bill, which affected pharmacists, had been finally passed. The Chief Secretary had been notified that the clause met with the approval of the Council, but that some provision should be made to prevent chemists being harassed, as seemed to have been the case recently in Western Australia.

Special Course of Lectures.—A communication was received from the Pharmacy Board, suggesting that a special course of evening lectures should be established at the College for those students who had passed their Preliminary Examination, and completed their apprenticeship. The Board was prepared to recognise such a course, provided the existing syllabus was followed, and the usual conditions as to enrolment, hours, and percentage of attendances, etc., were adhered to. The lectures, it was suggested, should be held on three week nights during the week, and on Saturday afternoons. At the conclusion of the lectures, the students would be required to pass the usual Intermediate Examination. The idea of the course was to provide more particularly for those older students who had done their lectures some years ago, and were now desirous of obtaining additional instruction, to enable them to qualify themselves. After discussion, it was unanimously decided to adopt the Board's recommendation, and to form the class, provided a sufficient number of students enrolled themselves. It was also decided that the class should be limited to 40, as the accommodation available would not permit of a larger number being enrolled. Mr. T. E. Turner was appointed lecturer. It was pointed out that the class would not supersede the regular day course, which would commence, as usual, on the first Monday in February, 1917.

General Business.—It was decided not to meet in January, unless special circumstances called for a meeting.

A letter of sympathy was ordered to be forwarded to the relatives of the late Private E. S. Bisset, a student of the College, who was killed recently on the Somme front.

After routine business had been concluded, the Vice President wished the members a merry Christmas, and expressed the hope that the present sad period in the world's history would soon be forgotten in the brighter days to come.

The meeting adjourned.

Metropolitan Chemists' Association.

South Suburban Chemists' Association.

The monthly meeting was held at Star Hotel, Windsor, on November 14th, 1916, at 8.30 p.m. There were nine members present. The President (Mr. E. H. Lecte), occupied the chair.

Correspondence.—The Secretary read a letter from the General Secretary, asking that any flagrant examples of doctors prescribing patent medicines be forwarded to him per medium of the delegates at the next Central Committee meeting. The delegates were supplied with examples and instructed accordingly.

The Secretary submitted an Antimsulph problem for discussion. A chemist has been marking his prescriptions autimsulph and has been in the habit of charging 3/- for 8 oz. mixtures, tablespoonful dose. Several customers complained and stated that another chemist (his nearest competitor) only charged 2/6 for the same class of prescription. On being consulted on telephone, the second chemist said, "Yes, I charge 2/6. I always get the best price possible, but cannot get more than 2/6 for 8 oz. mixtures, tablespoonful dose." What should the first chemist do?

After discussion, the meeting expressed the opinion that if the first chemist could not persuade the second to come up to his price, he would have to lower his own price or lose business.

A member put forward the following scheme for winning back the patent medicine trade lost to the grocer: If chemists would pick out the leading patent lines stocked by grocers, buy together in a parcel and sell the line cut at cost price or under, and make window displays of same at a cut figure, the grocer would then give up the lines as unprofitable to handle. The scheme was discussed at length, but no finality was arrived at, several members objecting to window shows of patent medicines.

J. F. George, Hon. Sec.

Medical Bill.

The second reading of the Medical Bill was moved by the Hon. W. A. Adamson in the Legislative Council on November 21. He said: This is a short Bill to amend the Medical Act in accordance with a promise made by the Chief Secretary in another place, when the Venereal Diseases Bill was under consideration in that Chamber. Clause 2 of this Bill provides that every medical man must sign his name to every prescription he gives. The amendment is unimportant. Under the Venereal Diseases Bill a medical man prescribing for a patient suffering

from a venereal disease is to be obliged to sign his name in full. I understand that medical men frequently only put their initials on prescriptions. The feeling, therefore, was that if a man had a prescription signed in full, it would be known that he was suffering from a venereal disease. I do not think there is much in that point, because I suppose it would be known from what was prescribed what was the matter with him. It was asked that there should be an amendment of the Medical Act in the Venereal Diseases Bill to provide that medical men should sign all their prescriptions in full. The Chief Secretary stated that he would rather have the amendment made in a separate Bill, and that was the object of the introduction of this measure.

The Hon. W. J. Beckett: Has the medical man's signature to be legible?

The Hon. W. A. Adamson: I think that would be asking for what is almost impossible.

The Hon. W. S. Manfield: It is true, as the Minister of Public Works says, that this is a very unimportant amendment. It would be very much shorter to pass an amendment doing away with the clause in the Venereal Bill requiring that medical men should sign their names in full on prescriptions for venereal diseases. It does not do the slightest good to have a medical man signing his full signature to a prescription. I think it is practically a universal custom for medical men to sign prescriptions with their initials only. Striking out the clause referred to would have been a simpler method of getting rid of the possible distinction between a prescription given for ordinary purposes and for the purposes of venereal diseases. That would have avoided adding another measure to our statute book. It is absolutely useless putting a provision like this on our statute book when the same object could be achieved by inserting a clause in the Venereal Diseases Bill. I feel inclined to move the adjournment of the debate.

The Hon. W. A. Adamson: Let it go through now.

The Hon. W. S. Manfield: Well, it is certainly a trifling matter.

The Hon. J. G. Aikens: I think the suggestion made by Mr. Manfield is a good one. This Bill provides that every medical practitioner shall sign his name in full on every prescription. As a rule the name of the doctor and his address and hours of consultation are printed on the top of the paper on which the prescription is written. It is no use passing such a measure when the Venereal Diseases Bill may not be placed on the statute book. I will support a proposal to adjourn the consideration of the measure.

The Hon. J. K. Merritt: This may be a harmless sort of Bill in the ordinary way, but I see that it inflicts a penalty on every medical man who does not comply with its provisions. It is well known that doctors do not sign their prescriptions in full. If this Bill is passed, and one of them signs a prescription in the way he has been in the habit of doing, he will be liable to a penalty. I do not know when the Government propose to bring the measure into operation, but the medical profession should certainly be made aware that it provides for a penalty.

The Hon. W. J. Beckett: The objection which I have to the measure is that it creates a new offence. That is the tendency of all recent legislation. Every medical practitioner who does not comply with the Bill may be fined £5. Can the Minister show that such a law is in operation in any other part of the world? As it is not considered necessary elsewhere, surely reasons should be given why it should be placed on the statute book of Victoria. By this Bill the Government create an artificial offence. Then a body will have to be created to deal with it. It will mean more work for the police, and more work for the Law Courts. Yet there is talk of undue expenditure, and the need for economy.

The Hon. Frank Clarke: If there were any merit in a doctor attaching his full name to a prescription, I think that the Australian branch of the British Medical Association would have seen that it was done. I do not know of any reason for the Bill, and I do not see any point in it.

On the motion of the Hon. V. V. Austin, the debate was adjourned.

Government Grants to Pharmacy.

In the Legislative Assembly on December 7, during the debate on the Estimates, Mr. Sinclair, M.L.A., suggested that the grants of £200 to the Pharmacy Board, and £500 to the College of Pharmacy, might be suspended during the war. No other member took the matter up, but, in reply Mr. D. McLeod, Chief Secretary, said (Hansard, 3150) —

"In regard to what the honourable member for Port Melbourne said about the grant to the College of Pharmacy, I would point out that that is an educational vote, practically. We agreed to give a grant for the building of a college. We require every young man and girl—there are a number of girls who become students—to undergo a certain examination in connection with this profession, and the Government agreed to allow £500 towards the college. As to the £200 for the Pharmacy Board, the Board really administer the Poisons Act, and are doing that more cheaply and effectively than we could do it. They have to conduct prosecutions at their own risk, and the matter is placed in the hands of a body of trained inspectors. It is one of the most justifiable votes we could have."

The item was subsequently passed without reduction.

Sale of Methylated Spirits Legislation not Proposed.

Mr. H. S. W. Lawson, State Attorney-General, stated on Nov. 23 that, although a few people have been so foolish as to drink methylated spirits, he did not think that special legislation to place restrictions on the present method of sale was necessary or desirable. The spirit was used for all sorts of useful purposes, and restrictions might cause great inconvenience.

Coat of Arms as Trade Mark.

Leslie Wilfred Edwards, trading as the Enterprise Debt Collecting Agency, Burnley, was fined £5, with £1 1s. costs, at Richmond Court on

Nov. 20, on a charge of having illegally used the Royal Coat of Arms. It was stated by Mr. T. G. Jones, who prosecuted on behalf of the Crown Law Department, that defendant had applied the coat of arms to notices he had sent out seeking to collect debts from various persons. The use of the coat of arms for business purposes was absolutely prohibited. Defendant said that he was ignorant of the law.

Methylated Spirits Drinkers.

While on duty in Queensberry-street, Carlton, on Sunday, Nov. 19, Constable Birch saw four men drinking from a bottle on a vacant piece of land. Subsequently he saw one of the men go to the confectioner's shop of Marie Jones, in Queensberry-street, and overheard him ask for a bottle of methylated spirits and a bottle of ginger beer, which were afterwards found on him. At the local court, on Dec. 13, Marie Jones was fined £5 for Sunday trading. Dr. Cole, P.M., said the trade in methylated spirits should be stopped, as it was a rank poison. Sergeant Stallard said there had been an unusual number of Sunday "drunks" at the Carlton Court lately, and it was evident that methylated spirits was the cause.

Dental.

Dental Board of Victoria.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held on November 17th. The President (Mr. Alec L. Elvins, J.P.) occupied the chair. Also present:—Dr. Lewis, Dr. Yule.

A case of breach of the provisions of the Dentists' Acts having been brought under the notice of the Board, prompt action was taken, and further infringement effectually prohibited.

The application of Mr. D. S. A. Neilson for reconsideration of his claims to have his name "recorded" under the provisions of the Dentists' Act 1910 was before the Board, discussed, and decision deferred till next meeting.

A letter was received from the Defence Department, acknowledging the receipt of cheque for £10 for the purpose of obtaining a motor cycle for presentation to the dental services and allotment to Lieutenant Thos. Unsworth, and stating that a cable had been transmitted to the High Commissioner's office, London, requesting that the purchase be arranged in consultation with Lieutenant Unsworth. The Minister desired to add an expression of his appreciation of this further evidence of the practical patriotism of the Board.

It was resolved to donate a sum of £2/2/- from the Board's patriotic fund to the fund at present being raised in Victoria for the relief of distressed dentists in France and Belgium.

The General Medical Council of the United Kingdom wrote, acknowledging receipt of copies of examination papers, detailed lists of the results, and the names of the candidates who had passed examinations of the Board to February, 1916.

The Board adjourned.

E. Joske, LL.B., Registrar.

Queensland.

Dental Bill.

A new Dental Bill is now passing through Parliament, in which provision is made for men who have been engaged in the profession for some time becoming registered on passing a modified examination.

Opticians Bill Summary of Provisions.

The Opticians Bill, which has been introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, is for the purpose of securing the better training of opticians and to regulate their practice. The Act will come into force on 1st January, 1917.

A board, to be called the Board of Optical Registration, will be constituted for carrying the Act into effect. The board will consist of five persons, including the chairman. The members of the first board will be appointed by the Governor-in-Council, and will consist of three competent opticians, and two medical practitioners. On or before 31st January, 1920, the board will be newly elected, and appointed in the manner following:—Three certified opticians, to be elected members by certified opticians. Two medical practitioners to be appointed members by the Governor-in-Council. The members will elect the chairman. They will remain in office for three years.

The qualifications for registration are three years' practice of optometry, in the State, before the commencement of the Act, the passing of an elementary examination in optics, conducted by a medical practitioner and a competent optician, the obtaining of a certificate of competency, good character, and the right to practice optometry in any co-operating States.

Any person of or over the age of 21 years, who, within six months after the commencement of the Act, proves to the satisfaction of the board that, for the full period of three years he has been selling by retail spherical spectacles and eyeglasses from a permanently located place of business within the State, shall, upon a payment of a fee of £1, and an annual renewal fee of 10s., be entitled without examination, to be registered as a spectacle seller, and to receive a license. Nothing in the Act, however, shall be construed to authorise or permit spectacle sellers who are not certified opticians to practise or conduct eye testing.

Registration shall not confer upon any person any right or title to be registered under the Medical Act of 1867, or any Act amending or in substitution for the same; or to assume the title of oculist or any other name, title, or designation implying that he is by law recognised as a medical practitioner, or that he is qualified to practise ophthalmic medicine or surgery; or to administer any drug for the purpose of paralysing the accommodation of the eye.

The board may enter into a reciprocal arrangement with the board of optical registration or other competent authority of the United Kingdom or of any State or colony within his Majesty's dominions, for the recognition of the status of

Chemists' Hours.

Medicines for Permanent Staff.

Pharmacy Legislation.

Business in Queensland.

Several striking developments have been shown in Christmas business this year. Business appears to be on the whole fairly good for ordinary lines, but Christmas trade will show a slump in comparison with previous years. This has been caused by the coal strike, which has made it impossible to obtain goods of any kind from the south. The effects of the recent proclamation is still to be felt, and will continue to be the predominating grading feature of business for some time to come. The unthinking public are now aware that a war is on.

For some time every report from Queensland has indicated that there is a shortage of assistants. At the present there are several men out of employment, apparently brought about by the release of several students from the College of Pharmacy and the slackening off of trade generally.

The country is enjoying the best season it has experienced for several years, which is a hopeful outlook for the immediate future.

South Australia.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Military Prescriptions.

The Pharmaceutical Council has issued invitations to the members of Society and their lady friends to be present at a bowling match, to be played between the Parkside Bowling Club and the Pharmacists' Bowlers, on the Parkside Bowling Green on Dec. 28. The Parkside Club, with its usual hospitality of bowlers, has invited us, adhering to the rule that visitors are to bear a share in the cost of entertaining the President (Mr W. H. Porter) has presented a trophy to be played for annually, between Parkside and Pharmacists, making a social fixture. Messrs. W. H. Porter, Hosking and Caughtan the selection committee, and Messrs. Gurner and Young have charge of general details. Everything promises a successful day.

Major Cossar's Visit.

Porter's, the South Australian Yacht Club, and the Semaphore Bowling Club, finally reaching the boat about 12 o'clock. Major Cossar, after visiting Western Australia, is due to arrive back in Adelaide on Dec. 14. Capt. Fox has arranged for an official meeting for Friday, Dec. 15, when it is expected that most, if not all, the pharmacists who are interested in military matters will be present. Major Cossar will return to Melbourne on Dec. 18.

Death of Father Jorgensen.

Father Jorgensen, who died at Port Lincoln early in December, aged 72 years, arrived in South Australia in 1871. He qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist at the University of Copenhagen, and for 24 years conducted a chemist's business at Gawler. In 1877 he decided to enter the Church as a priest, and with this object he visited Ireland and Rome, and was ordained in 1882. For 22 years he was in charge of the Port Lincoln Mission, and his magnetic personality exercised a wonderful power for good on all classes from Fowler's Bay to Franklin Harbour.

Coroner and the Poisons Regulations.

On Dec. 5, the City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) held an inquest concerning the death of a young woman, who died from strychnine poisoning at Adelaide on Dec. 3. The evidence showed that deceased went to a safe in the house of her sister, where poisoned wheat was kept for destroying mice. Deceased's sister admitted that she had purchased the wheat from a store, and had not signed for it. The girl took some of the wheat; a post mortem revealing the presence of about three teaspoonfuls in her stomach. The Coroner, in returning a verdict of death from poison self-administered while of unsound mind, remarked that the public did not seem to be generally aware that there were laws regulating the sale of poisons, or that the persons who sold the poisons were conversant with the regulations, judging by the open manner in which they were infringed.

Chemists and Patent Medicines.

The following letter, from W. E. Mitchell, Gresham Hotel, North-terrace, appeared in the *Advertiser* of Dec. 11:—"As a visitor to this State, I was somewhat amused in reading the evidence given in the Industrial Court in connection with retail chemists and druggists. Being a chemist and druggist in another State, I know what I am talking about, and as a believer in the solemn truth, I would like to refer to a portion of the evidence about patent medicines. One witness, having answered a question by the judge, his Honour remarked: 'If I might refer to my own experience, it seems that most chemists advise customers to buy their own proprietary medicines or preparations.' The witness replied: 'Yes, that is customary, as very often our own are the best.' The judge: 'Are they better than patent medicines?' Witness: 'Yes, very often.' I, as one in the trade, would like to ask that witness whether, if a customer comes in and asks for somebody's well-advertised pills, is it not a fact that chemists endeavour to sell their own article in preference to the one asked for, for the simple reason that there is far more profit in their own? Is it not a fact that the chemists' profits are, on the prescriptions, usually 2s 6d. to 4s. 6d. over the counter, cash? In most cases the cost to the chemist is about 6d. The most expensive article is the bottles. It is a thousand times better to do such business than to sell a patent medicine at a profit of about 3d."

Tasmania.

Pharmacy Board of Tasmania.

Monthly meeting held December 14.

Present: Messrs. M. Rushton (President), H. T. Gould, J. T. Weaver, T. James, H. Sidwell, and the Registrar.

Examinations. Preliminary: It was noted that one candidate had sat for the Preliminary Examination in Launceston. *Final*: It was noted that no entries were received within the time specified, but that subsequently Mr. C. A. Clayton had written, asking if Board could arrange a special examination early in March. Resolved that the matter be further considered at next meeting if he still desires it, and, in the meantime, it be announced in the papers that in every probability an examination will be held in March, the idea being that other candidates who propose to sit in June might find that time convenient to them.

Objectionable Advertisements.—A letter from the Victorian Registrar was received, dated 21st November, in reply to this Board's letter of the 10th November, in which he intimated that the matter would be brought under the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, with a view to some action being taken.

Contravention of Pharmacy Act.—Correspondence between a firm of merchants and the Board was read, in which it was pointed out that a breach of the Act had occurred, which the firm in question had undertaken to rectify. The action taken by the President and Registrar was confirmed. *Circular.*—A draft of the proposed circular was presented, amended and approved. Resolved that 1000 copies be printed forthwith. Also resolved that a copy be sent out to each chemist (together with annual notices), with a foot-note to the effect that in the event of breaches of the Act occurring, if they will send names of the offenders, a copy of the circular be sent to the offender in question.

Re Enemy Goods.—A letter from Mr. T. H. Dick, Secretary, Sydney Western Suburbs' Pharmacists' Association, dated 15th November, was received, and, in response thereto, a letter was addressed to the Prime Minister, intimating that this Board endorses the views of the Pharmaceutical Societies in New South Wales, and urges that the matter may receive favourable consideration. Action was confirmed.

Annual Election.—It was noted that the retiring members were Messrs. Weaver and Eberhard, and that a third vacancy will also need to

be filled. The President was appointed Returning Officer to conduct the January election.

Last Meeting of the Year.—The President intimated that as this is the last meeting of the present year, he would like to make a few observations. He said that the Board has every reason to be satisfied with the progress made during the year, and intimated that among other things a great deal had been accomplished by obtaining the administration of the Poisons Act without passing all its stages with the exception of receiving the Royal assent. He intimated however that such administration would entail considerable responsibilities as well as privileges. He went on to say, by the recognition by the Federal Defence Authorities of pharmacists was [illegible] encouragement on the part of pharmacy generally. He pointed out that for the first time pharmacists had obtained commissioned rank through rendering what being that of major.

The President tabled a few suggestions for alterations to the Pharmacy Act to be used in the event of the Act coming under review.

The working of the Board, the President said, had been improved by members being supplied with typed copies of the minutes, thus Mr. Eberhard, the Launceston member, was being kept closely in touch with all that transpired. The President thanked the Councillors for their co-operation, and requested the Registrar to send a letter to Mr. Eberhard, thanking him for his assistance, and included his remarks. In expressing to the Registrar the Board's appreciation of his work, and intimating that the members had agreed to the payment of an honorarium of three guineas.

Mr. Weaver congratulated the President on his year's work, and intimated that the good feeling expressed by the President was reciprocated by the Board. The Registrar thanked the Board for its expression of appreciation, and the meeting terminated.

The monthly meeting of the Board was held at 86 Collins Street, Hobart, on 16th November, 1916, at 10.30 a.m.

Present.—Messrs. M. Rushton (President), H. P. Gould, J. T. Weaver, T. James, H. Sidwell and the Registrar.

Minutes.—The meeting held on 19th October, having been circulated amongst the members, were confirmed.

Apologies were received for the absence of Mr. Eberhard.

Correspondence.—A letter from the New Zealand Registrar was received, intimating that regulations had not yet been prepared, and that a copy would be sent when available.

Examinations.—It was noted the dates for the preliminary would be the 4th and 5th of December. Resolved that the intermediate and final examinations be held on the 13th and 14th December.

Contravention of Pharmacy Act.—Mr. Gould called attention of the Board to a stroke per offering massage embrocation for sale and undertook to obtain further information and report same at next meeting. Resolved that a new circular be prepared, to be used in cases where the Act is being infringed, and that a copy of the draft be forwarded to each member before the next meeting.

Objectionable Advertisements.—The President called attention to the fact that an advertisement had appeared in *The Mercury* of 9th November, in which V. V. Wawn, who described himself as a duly qualified registered chemist holding New South Wales and Victorian diplomas, offered free advice. Registrar was instructed to write to the Victorian and New South Wales Boards, calling attention to this and intimating that the Tasmanian Board strongly protests against such action on the part of the advertiser, and hoped that something could be done by the Boards concerned to compel him to discontinue the practice.

Papers Tabled.—Regulations of Queensland Pharmacy Board list of examination subjects and information re prospective apprentices.

Finance.—The Registrar reported a credit balance of £38 15 10.

Correspondence.

Letters submitted for publication must be addressed to the Editor and should reach the Office not later than the 16th of the month. They should be written clearly and concisely, on one side of the paper only, and must be authenticated in each case by the name and address of the writer. The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

To the Editor, *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

Preliminary Examination Problem.

Sir,—The examiner's assertion that my mathematics are a bit rusty is perhaps correct, but my knowledge of English is sufficient to discover the anomalous condition in his problem.

Mathematics is at least definite, and the examiner must admit that in mathematics certain definitions or axioms have to be admitted.

If the examiner will look up any military text book he will find that the definition of being in step is that the same foot of every man shall strike the ground simultaneously; the beat of the drum marks the left foot striking the ground.

The examiner says nothing about them breaking step; in fact, if what he wishes us to believe is true, they were not in step to start with. Their feet may have left the ground simultaneously, but they certainly never struck the ground together again, not even after covering the distance of 1188 inches, for two of the men will have taken an even number of steps, viz., 44 and 36, whilst the third man takes an odd number, 33. Consequently he is on a different foot and out of step.—Yours,

A.J.E.

Sir,—When I first saw the problem set by the Preliminary Examiner, I failed to see how it could be worked out, though the hint was given of the "least common multiple." I gave the problem to two men engaged in actuarial work,

and, like me, they gave it up. None of us had heard of the rule since our school days. The question was then passed on to a public school teacher, who said it was only "big boy's work," and he solved the problem in about twenty figures. It was a mutual refresher. My two friends said *afterwards* that A.J.E.'s letter was a fool of a letter. It may have been, but he had the courage of his convictions, and did not hesitate to give expression to them. I am greatly pleased to notice the improvement in the Journal in recent years.

Yours, etc.,

C.S.H.

To the Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*

A Humorous Pharmacist.

Sir, The lines enclosed herewith were written by a pharmacist, and were printed in an American paper, I think. I cannot remember the name of the paper, but I feel sure the editor will pardon you for reprinting them with this acknowledgment. They may cause a little innocent amusement at a time when most people are a bit doleful. The verses are as follow:—

When Mary tried to light her lamp
It would not burn, and so
She sought the druggist's shop to buy
$(C_2H_5)HO$. [Alcohol.]

What cruel joke may be in wait
For us none can foretell,
For on the very steps she met
An old NaCl. [Salt.]

Who at the sight of her exclaimed:
"O'er many a stormy sea,
'Tis destiny that to your side
My footsteps have Pb." [Lead.]

"Ship with me on the voyage of life,
My second mate you'll be."
"Oh, sir," she said, and hung her head,
"This is so ppt." [Precipitate.]

"Of course, I have been wooed before
By scores of gentlemen,
But what I'm looking for is one
With plenty of Sn." [Tin.]

The sailor laughed a mocking laugh:
"O grasping jade, adieu!"
He cried and fled. "You won't want me;
I've nothing but Au." [Gold.]

Oh, what was life to Mary then?
She rushed into the store,
And asked to have her bottle filled
With H_2SO_4. [Sulphuric acid.]

And on the acid as she gazed,
Her lips breathed forth a sigh
Because the fickle sailorman
Cared not a blamed Ni. [Nickel.]

Yours, etc.,

I.Y.A.

Legal.

Boan Bros.' "Pharmacy."

Prosecution under Western Australian Pharmacy Act.

An interesting case was heard at the Perth Police Court on November 18, before Mr. Davies, P.M., when Harry Boan was charged with having on September 10 carried on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist, he not being registered.

Mr. F. J. Foreman appeared for the Pharmaceutical Society, whilst Mr. V. Smith and Mr. M. G. Lavan appeared for the defence.

Mr. Foreman said that the defence admitted that the business of a chemist and druggist was being carried on, but defendant said it was carried on by and under the personal supervision of a duly qualified pharmaceutical chemist. He (Mr. Foreman) admitted that Mr. Siggs (who was said to be in charge of the chemist and druggist branch at Boans') was a duly qualified chemist, but he would not admit that he (Mr. Siggs) carried on the business.

Mr. Smith contended that there was no offence disclosed, as the business was under the supervision of a duly qualified chemist.

H. Wilhams, general manager for Boan Bros., stated that the firm opened a chemist and druggist branch, and they engaged Mr. Siggs, who had sole control of that branch, he being a duly qualified pharmaceutical chemist. Neither Mr. Boan, witness, nor anybody else interfered with the control of Mr. Siggs, who had four assistants.

To Mr. Foreman: If the assistants made a sale it was for Boan Bros.

To Mr. Lavan: The defendant was separate from the other departments.

L. O. Siggs stated that he was a duly qualified chemist, and since August last he had sole control of the chemist and druggist branch at Boan Bros.' He did not work for anyone else. So far as the management of the branch was concerned, no one else had any control over it. He ordered all the stock used in the business.

To Mr. Foreman: It would be possible for poison to be sold without his knowledge, but this would be against his orders. If the assistant whose name was on the docket (produced) sold the poison (produced) without referring the order to him, his orders had not been carried out. He personally made up all prescriptions. It was the practice up to a few days ago to issue dockets when sales were effected, but this

He would be surprised if [illegible] person (pointed) ever [illegible] to him. His [illegible] was separated from the others, and none of his stock was mixed up with other stock.

To Mr Lavan: He did not know of any [illegible] without his knowledge.

To Mr Thomson: There were two bottles of [illegible] in the upper window, but they were [illegible].

In Mr Lavan's re-[illegible] were sent from the window [illegible] for display only.

Ethel Freeman, a shop-girl, said that [illegible] September 16, 1916, going to the [illegible] he handed a young lady a prescription. She went into the dispensary, and came out a few minutes later saying he would have to wait a little while. He then asked her for a bottle of lysol, which she put on the counter. While the prescription was being made up the assistant got it wrapped up with the [illegible], and handed the parcel to witness.

Mr Lavan: Miss Freeman said that she handed a written order to Boans' pharmacy on September 16. He handed the order to a male assistant. She took down a bottle, put a stopper in it, and put a label marked "poison" on it. She was [illegible] portion [illegible] and then returned and gave [illegible] for it. He did not see Sigg.

Samuel Magnus, registrar of the Pharmacy Board, stated that he had been past the premises in Boans' [illegible] several times, and [illegible].

To Mr Lavan: He could not swear that Mr Sigg was not in the dispensing department at the time. There was a chemist's shop about 20 yards from Boans, and another about 100 yards away.

Mr Lavan: I thought so. The prosecution don't [illegible]. The [illegible] Mr Lavan said that it was [illegible] that the chemists did not like Boans [illegible] the same as a prescription by a medical practitioner.

Witness said that the chemists did not like [illegible] that they were [illegible].

Mr Lavan: Say it outside.

Witness: I will. They want to get the lion's share of the world.

Mr Lavan: Have [illegible] chemists [illegible] Freeman also carried on similar business [illegible]?

Witness: Yes.

Mr Smith argued that the Act had been complied with, and that [illegible] himself had [illegible] of the business.

Mr Freeman contended that the business must be carried on by a [illegible] chemist and [illegible]. The defendant [illegible] the business, and Sigg was merely a paid servant. There was no evidence to show Boans were [illegible], or any person [illegible] registered [illegible] it was [illegible], in his opinion, that a business should be mixed up with any other business unless the person owning it was a [illegible] chemist.

Mr Haynes, P.M., on November 20, said he had considered the evidence and arguments placed before him, and had come to a conclusion. It was shown that the defendant was the proprietor of a store in Perth, among the departments of which was one conducted for pharmacy, where medicines were prepared and sold. It was also shown that a Mr Sigg, a duly qualified and registered chemist, was employed there. The evidence for the defence was that the pharmacy was conducted entirely by Sigg, with the exception that in financial matters the manager of the firm had some say. Evidence had been given that special instructions had been issued, and that Sigg had personally supervised the department. He (the Magistrate) was bound to place the ordinary grammatical, literal construction upon the section of the Act under which the prosecution was laid, and if the defendant carried on his business in conformity with that section he must find for him and not look to other sections to find him guilty. In the present case it seemed to him that the defendant was a person who carried on the business of chemist and druggist under the personal supervision of a pharmaceutical chemist, and consequently the defendant was not guilty of the offence complained of. Therefore the prosecution must fail.

Costs amounting to four guineas were allowed against the prosecution.

A second charge was preferred against Mr Boan in respect of an advertisement which appeared in the "West Australian" of October 17. The prosecution took exception to the words "Boans' Pharmacy" appearing therein, and the case centred round the meaning of these words. It was explained that the defendant used and exhibited a title, term, or sign which could be construed to mean that he was qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist. Mr Freeman argued that the words "Boans Pharmacy" could convey to a person newly arrived in the city of Perth that Mr Boan was a pharmaceutical chemist.

Mr Smith pointed out that in the advertisement there was not the apostrophe after the "s" in "Boans." Mr Boan was entitled under the Act to carry on the business of pharmacy, and what was he to call it?

Mr Lavan: Sigg's pharmacy.

Mr Smith: He can call it what he likes. He can call it Lincoln's pharmacy. Continuing, Mr Smith said the words only meant the place where medicines could be bought. Who in his senses, asked counsel, would suppose for a minute from the words "Boans' Pharmacy" that Mr. Boan was endeavoring to suggest that he was a qualified person? The words [illegible] nothing more than [illegible] where medicines were to be found.

The Magistrate decided in favour of the defendant, and dismissed the complaint, with five guineas costs against the prosecution.

All High-Class Preparations.

Greathead's Mixture

Greatoids

Bleacho

Gainsborough Hat Dyes

Collis' Royale Eau de Cologne

Collis' Carnation Eau de Cologne

Collis' Violet Shampoo Powders

Velvice Greaseless Face Cream

Collis' Violet and Carnation Talcum Powders

Collis' Cold Cream of Roses

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DOSES: 0·20—0·25—0·30—0·35—0·40.

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Ref., B.M.J., 14/3/14—12/9/14.
LANCET, 18/9/15.

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HECTINE is Sodii Benzo-sulph-p-amino-phenyl arsonas.

HECTINE consists of colourless needles, very soluble in water, containing approximately 21 per cent. of arsenic.

The preparation is put up in sterile ampoules for *Intramuscular Injections*

AMPOULES A containing 10 cg. in 1 c.c.
AMPOULES B ,, 20 cg. in 1 c.c.
PILLS ,, 10 cg.

Ref., THE LANCET, 26/6/15—"Severe cases of intractable syphillis treated satisfactorily with Hectine"

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Mercurial salt of HECTINE, a combined arsenico-mercurial treatment of Syphillis, especially recommended after a course of Galyl.

The preparation is put up in sterile ampoules for *Intramuscular Injections*

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Hg - 1 cg.
AMPOULES B Containing
Hectine - 20 cg. in 1 c.c.
Hg. - 1½ cg.
PILLS containing
Hectine - 10 cg.
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Possession of Drugs A Dispenser Convicted.

At the City Court, Melbourne, on Dec. 12, Jacob Michael Perl, a dispenser at the Collingwood F.S. Dispensary, was charged with having had in his possession three ounces of cocaine and a quantity of other drugs suspected of having been stolen. Perl pleaded not guilty.

Detective T. Coonan said that, in consequence of a report made by the military authorities, that quantities of drugs had been disappearing from military hospitals, he instituted inquiries, and learned that a firm of tobacconists in Collins-street was selling drugs at considerably below wholesale rates. A buyer was sent there, and purchased £13 worth of drugs from Mr. A. Marks, a partner in the firm of John Frost and Co., tobacconists, 211 Collins-street. After interviewing Mr. Marks he (witness) saw Perl at Fitzroy. Perl admitted that Marks and Frost had disposed of drugs for him. At first he said he owned the drugs for years, but afterwards stated that he bought them from a man whose name he refused to disclose. He admitted that during the past six months Marks had sold some £60 or £70 worth of drugs for him. Alexander Marks said he had known Perl both as a customer and a friend for some years. An arrangement was arrived at that the firm should sell certain drugs for Perl, and that he would allow a commission on the sales.

Jacob Michael Perl, the accused, stated that he acquired a stock of drugs 20 years ago, and the pre-war value of those drugs was about £50. The drugs had come into his possession in the first instance on the failure of a chemist's business carried on by his father. He stored them at his mother's residence in King-street, West Melbourne, and six years later transferred what he required of them to his own house in Parkville. This stock was added to when his brother, Dr. M. J. Perl, returned from Pitfield, and took up his practice in King-street. About ten years ago he (defendant) conceived the idea of substituting his own drugs for those included in the stock of the dispensary. He acted upon this idea, and for every drug which he took from the dispensary stock he substituted a bottle of the same drug from his own store. He retained the stock of fresh drugs thus obtained, as it was the intention of his brother and himself to open a drug business.

Mr. Dwyer, P.M., in giving the Bench's decision, said:—"We do not swallow Perl's story. We believe that it is a concoction from beginning to end. If we swallowed that we would swallow anything." Perl was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, the sentence to be suspended on his entering into a bond of £100 and finding a surety of a like amount that he would be of good behaviour for twelve months.

[Perl is not a registered chemist in Victoria, and his name does not appear on any of the records of the Pharmacy Board or College of Pharmacy.—Ed., A.J.P.]

Wages Boards.

South Australian Industrial Court. Chemists' Assistants' Claims.

The Deputy President of the Industrial Court (Mr. Noel A. Webb) on December 4 to 8 dealt with an application by the Retail Chemist and Druggist employees, as members of the Distributing Trades Union of South Australia. They submitted for the court's determination matters affecting the number of hours to be worked by employees, the rate of pay, overtime, and the conditions of employment generally in the industry.

Mr. C. Hunkin appeared on behalf of the employees (the applicants); Mr. H. Angas Parsons, K.C., for Messrs. Baker and others, the respondents mentioned in the appearance, and Mr. J. H. Francis for the Friendly Societies' Medical Association and the Port Adelaide United Friendly Societies' Dispensary (respondents).

A Brief Opening.

Mr. Hunkin said, in respect of the application, that it was a submission by the employees in the retail trade, and it was due primarily to the unconscionable number of hours that they had to work. Although the conditions in some of the shops were fairly equitable, in the majority they were of such a nature that there was no other body of men he knew of which would have submitted to them. Had they been manual workers there would have been a cessation of work. It spoke well for the high standard of intelligence which existed among the men—it showed they had conceptions of their responsibilities to the community generally.

The First Witness.

William Ronald Earl Henderson, registered chemist's assistant, residing at Parkside, said he was in the employ of J. B. Burden, of King William-street. He had had about 10 years' experience, including an apprenticeship of four years. A premium of £50 was paid in his case. That was, he thought, about the average payment, though in some instances £75 were asked for.

Mr. Hunkin.—How long had you been in the business before you commenced dispensing prescriptions?—From two to three years. He added that the work was done under supervision, and that the prescriptions were simple ones—mostly for external applications. In his opinion an assistant should have an experience of from six to seven years before he was competent to dispense all prescriptions without supervision. There were often complex prescriptions, to make up which would require a wider experience than could be gained in the time he had mentioned. A good knowledge of the science of chemistry would be needed, for instance, to understand the reaction which would take place between the different ingredients. There were numerous synthetic drugs and preparations in use at the present time—

The Deputy President.—What do you mean by synthetic?

Witness explained that a chemical change takes place as distinguished from a mechanical mixture.

Mr Hooke—Sunday work. Does that interfere with your attending church? (Laughter.)

Witness—It makes it inconvenient to attend church on Sunday. (Renewed laughter.)

The Deputy President—That is a guarded answer. (Laughter.)

Witness then said that Sunday work undoubtedly interfered largely with any of the pleasures of a Sunday. He could make no arrangements to go to the hills or to the beach on alternate Sundays. If they were to have a Sunday off it would be a great convenience; at most they might have only an hour or so in the evening.

The Saturday Trade.

Mr Hooke—People break down and rush?

Witness—Yes, often; then they occasionally give way to drink.

The Deputy President—Do you want me to take that same way to drink seriously?—Yes. Continuing, witness said there were periods of rush and business, the accumulation of prescriptions, some more important. At those times it was impossible for one's mind to be concentrated on work. Fewer hours would, in his opinion, mean increased efficiency and less liability to errors, and to that extent the public would be benefited. He objected to work on Sundays and gazetted holidays on the ground that it was unnecessary.

Mr Hooke—What would be a fair rate for such work? Double rate, in my opinion.—He (witness) thought the chief cause of late work was trade competition. Many of the masters objected to closing because others exposed their goods for sale.

The Deputy President—Are there restrictions regarding the goods to be sold on Sunday?—Cigars and tobacco overlooked. Witness, continuing, said he was chief assistant, and ranked next to Mr [illegible] in the shop. There were other assistants and it was part of witness's duties to maintain the concentration of attention. Another assistant was in the shop and stood behind the counter. He, however, could give the customer what witness was not engaged attending to. He still at the large West-street house accepted for assistance, working himself. There were also a book-keeper and a messenger boy. Two of the assistants were [illegible].

Pharmaceutical Chemist's Certificate.

The apprentice assistants here had [illegible] and carried on business under Pathological Society [illegible] Upper [illegible] passed by

juniors or unregistered assistants were always checked before they were sent out. There had to be at least one registered man in every business, and that might be the employer. Witness' employer gave all his assistants an annual holiday on full pay, which was absolutely necessary to repair the waste of brain tissue. The log they were asking for was reasonable. It included a 48 hours' week, and the wages were:—Managing assistant, £6 a week; chief assistant, £5/10/-; registered assistant, £5; unregistered assistant (senior), £4; junior, from £3 to £3/10/-. Rates were also specified for improvers and others. The log asked that ordinary overtime should be paid for at the rate of time and a half, with double time on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday.

Cross-Examined.

To Mr. Parsons.—He had no personal complaint to make against the conditions of work or of pay at Mr. Burden's shop, with the exception of the number of hours, which was not in excess, after all, of those worked at other establishments.

Mr. Parsons.—I believe you are president of the Chemists' Assistants' Association?—Yes, and continuing, he said he helped to draw up the log.

Mr. Parsons cross-examined witness at length concerning the amount of time he put in outside of his working hours in reading and studying works connected with chemistry.

Witness, in reply, said he had frequently spent time at home in going through Martindale's "Extra Pharmacopoeia" and also other books.

Mr. Parsons.—How long is it since the last time you had to prescribe a prescription of which the components were incompatible?—About a week.

How many such prescriptions have you had during this year?—I cannot say exactly; probably 50 to 100.

Can't you say more definitely than that?—No. Continuing, he said he could remember within the past fortnight having had three such prescriptions, one of which was a repeated prescription. He went on to explain that in neither case he had mentioned was the prescription dangerous. However, he could remember a defect in a prescription which consisted in the omission of the doctor to make directions in mixing the compounds in mucilage.

Mr. Parsons.—Would it not have been within the knowledge of any registered chemist that those constituents should be mixed with mucilage?—Yes.

Witness, in reply to questions, said he did not suggest that the hours asked for by the applicants would be satisfactory to the employers, or that the public would be satisfied if the chemists' shops were closed at 6 o'clock. Many doctors had their consulting hours between 6 and 8 p.m. The witness thought the health of assistants was injuriously affected by late hours and Sunday work.

Mr. Parsons.—What, with all those drugs around them (Laughter.)

His Honor.—It is like the case of bald-headed barbers who sell hair restorers. (Laughter.)

The witness said the busiest time of the day was between noon and 5 o'clock. Between 8 and 9 p.m. trade was usually quieter than at other times except on Fridays. Some employers favoured closing at 6 o'clock.

Early Closing.

By His Honour.—The witness knew that many people could not conveniently consult a doctor before 6 o'clock. In some cases such patients would not be able to have the prescriptions mixed on the same night. But in many cases suburban chemists lived on the premises, and could attend to urgent matters. Continuing, the witness said chemists shops in Melbourne closed an hour earlier than the Adelaide shops, and in Tasmania 8 o'clock closing was the practice. There was an agitation for shorter hours in Sydney.

By Mr. Hunkin.—The principal business between 6 and 8 p.m. was in toilet articles, patent medicines, and proprietary articles.

Leonard Gregory Sweeney, unregistered chemist's assistant, said he lived in Light-street, Adelaide, and worked at Birks'. He was educated at Christian Brothers' College. Though 27 years of age he had not sat for any examination by the Pharmacy Board. He dispensed medicine, and if the prescriptions were too difficult he referred them to the chief dispenser. He had been unable to get married simply because the wages were insufficient. An additional reason he would advance was that his hours of work would prevent him giving proper attention to his home. He did not consider the present hours at all satisfactory. They were too long. He would not object to working after 6 p.m., if overtime were paid, but for health reasons would prefer not to do so. If shops closed at 6 p.m. no great inconvenience would be caused to the public. In Tasmania chemists' shops were closed at that hour, and he saw no reason why the same conditions could not be applied to South Australia. The bulk of the business done in shops after 6 p.m. was the sale of patent medicines, proprietary articles, perfumery, and sundries, such as toothbrushes. Some of these could be purchased at any fancy goods shop. The bulk of the work after 6 o'clock was counter work, and not many prescriptions were dispensed. Most of the prescriptions which came in after 6 p.m. were for lodge patients.

The Deputy-President.—Some of those prescriptions would be urgent ones, would relieve pain, would they not?—Yes, sometimes; but often the pain is only imaginary.

But a medicine might afford great relief to a patient suffering from only an imaginary pain?—Yes.

Working Hours.

Continuing, witness said he had an objection to working on Sundays and public holidays, which interfered with necessary rest, recreation, and health. The present hours were far too long.

The Deputy-President.—The hours of business were fixed by proclamation under the Early Closing Act, 1913. I have not power to make an alteration in those hours. I think 60 hours per week is too long for these men to work.

Mr. Parsons.—The employers are willing to concede 53 hours a week.

The Deputy-President.—Then I suggest that the parties should consider the advisableness of

petitioning the Minister of Industry for a revision of the hours.

Witness, continuing, said that if they obtained 48 hours a week, and the shops closed at 6 p.m., as they had asked in the log, he thought a fair wage for a chemist's assistant would be £1 a week. They should be paid double time for Sundays and holidays. If double time were paid, it would not follow that the shops would be closed on those days. The masters could still do business. He did not think there was sufficient business in a shop to justify the employee being brought back to work on Sundays and holidays. At one shop he used to work every other Sunday and every alternate holiday. There was always an extra charge against the customer for work done after hours. It was a uniform extra charge of 1/-. He used to be secretary of the Retail Chemists' Assistants' Association; but the members had since become members of the Distributing Trades Union, which was an association of shop and warehouse employees. Mr. Hunkin was secretary of the union.

Replying to Mr. Parsons, witness said, amid some laughter, that he had no matrimonial intentions. He could not contemplate marriage under present conditions. The system of hours of working would prevent him marrying. The hours worked in the shop where he had been engaged for the past four weeks were preferable to those in most chemists' shops. His present hours were not unfair; but in other shops he had found them too long. When he was 20 years of age he was working for a chemist, and occasionally did a little dispensing under supervision. He had to work all day Saturday, and received about 20/- per week. On ordinary days he worked from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Proprietary Medicines.

Witness said that fact was a reason which could be advanced for increased wages. He needed ability to advise people when purchasing. There was a higher degree of ability in salesmanship in the chemist than any other retail trade. Some of the patent medicines had been taken off the market by order of the Federal Government. It occasionally happened that people asked for advice regarding such preparations, and he had to be able to give the information. He did his best in that direction to attract custom to the shop. The way to build up a business was to advise customers honestly about the best purchases to make.

The Deputy President.—If I may mention my own experience it seems to me that most chemists advise customers to buy their own proprietary lines or prescriptions.—Yes, that is the custom, because often they are better than the patent lines.

The Deputy President.—Are these proprietary lines made up for an honest purpose?—Yes. They are prepared for a specific complaint, and are often better for that complaint than patent medicines.

What are you asked advice about?—Different patent medicines.

You know there was a controversy about the value of different kinds of medicines?—Yes, some were of little use. Continuing, witness said there were about 16 persons employed by Birks, Limited.

Mr. Parsons.—How do you apply the log to some of those persons? Let's begin with an Irishman like yourself. (Laughter.) There's Tom Hogan, he is a youth in the manufacturing room, doing odd jobs without responsibility; where does he come in the log?—I would classify him as an improver. He added that they had in their shop a soda fountain and David Atkins was an assistant.

Mr. Parsons.—Shall we gather at the fountain? (Laughter.)

The Deputy President.—The river. (Laughter.)

Mr. Parsons.—You can't call him an improver. You don't intend to legislate for him?—No.

Mr. Hunkin said it was not intended that persons engaged only on the fountain should come within the scope of the log. Nor would it apply to typists.

Mr. Parsons.—Several of those patent medicines were taken off the market by the Federal Government?—Yes.

The Deputy President.—You direct people as to which medicines are most potent. It is part of your business?—Yes. Continuing, he said that customers who had complaints sometimes saw advertisements drawing attention to medicines, and they asked advice about them.

Witness then went on to describe the work of two lady employees and other male employees. One of the latter was engaged in making ice-cream and toothpaste. (Laughter.) Certain of the assistants worked 55 1-3 hours one week and 53 5-6 the next. He believed the girls worked from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Casual hands had not been employed at Birk's since he had been there. He was of opinion there would be no inconvenience caused by the reduction of hours. Arrangements might be made with the doctors. It was not fair to an assistant living on the premises to have to work after hours when the other employees were free. He had suggested that urgent cases could be attended to by chemists living on the premises. In some cases they were assistants.

The Employer's Burden.

Mr. Parsons.—Then would it not be unfair to the employer who had borne the heat and burden of the day?

Witness said he knew from experience that the employer worked as hard as the employee; sometimes harder. He thought that the employer had just as much right to freedom from overwork as the employee.

Mr. Parsons.—Then should the responsibility of attending to those urgent cases be thrown on an employer? Would it be fair?

Witness said he thought that it was a fair thing to place the responsibility on the employer of dealing with a customer after hours.

Mr. Parsons.—That is not an answer. I am dealing with the question of fairness.

Witness said he thought it was a fair thing that the employer should himself do the work of attending to urgent cases after hours.

Mr. Parsons.—You admit, then, that those urgent cases have to be attended to?—Yes. Continuing, he said that a quarter of the business done by the firm of Birks consisted of dispensing medicine. That was done day and night. He had

worked, in addition to Birks, as reliever for a chemist at Woodville from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and also at other places, including the Adelaide Hospital.

Hospital Dispensing.

The Deputy-President.—Is there a big dispensary at the Adelaide Hospital; are there many hands engaged there?—Three, I think. Continuing, he said that when at the Adelaide Hospital he got £3 a week, less 15s. living expenses; that was for three meals a day. In cash he only got £2 5s. He had worked at the hospital for a month. The other men working at the hospital were registered assistants, but he did not know what wages they got. So far as hours were concerned, he had no definite finishing hour. Prior to going to the hospital, he had worked for one day for a chemist to enable him to go to the hills, and he received 10s. for his services. That was about the recognised fee paid to casual hands. He mentioned two other places at which he had worked as a "reliever" at night, and in one case he was paid 5s. 6d. In the other he had done it to oblige an assistant. Most of the prescriptions dispensed after 6 o'clock were lodge ones.

The Deputy President.—There is an arrangement between the chemist and doctor. Is there any reason why it should not be exposed to the court?

Mr. Parsons thought there was a reason why it should not. He added, "We have a horrible trade rival in the Adelaide Dispensary.

Witness, continuing, said most lodge prescriptions received after 6 o'clock were not urgent, and could be left over until the next morning.

A Manager's Experience.

Walter Leslie Brooks, manager for Mr. J. White, chemist, North-terrace, said he was a registered chemist. He had been with Mr. White for about three months. He had been in business for 10 to 11 years. He served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Harris and Fox, chemists, at Goodwood. Before that apprenticeship he had passed a preliminary examination. At 15 years of age he entered the chemistry business at Broken Hill. In four years' time he was dispensing under supervision. He commenced work at 10s. per week, and received 25s. per week about four years afterwards. Studying for his examinations was hard work, because he had to attend to the shop. A big proportion of apprentices passed the final examinations at the ages of 23 to 26. At Messrs. Harris and Fox's, as far as he could remember, he started at 15s. per week, and in four years' time received £2 per week. He took employment at Kapunda, and for the first month he got £2 15s. per week, and afterwards got £4. It was a "relieving" position. He next went to Broken Hill, where he received £5 per week. From there he went to Sydney, and stayed there only three weeks because he received only £3 10s. He considered this entirely inadequate for a man of his experience. There was no uniform law of closing chemists' shops in the Melbourne metropolitan district.

Mr. Parsons stated that he had received information from Melbourne which stated that chemists' shops closed on Saturday afternoon, so that the assistants got that time off, as well as their statutory half holiday.

The witness said he was satisfied with the rate of pay he got at relieving work.

He thought that the relieving work should be paid higher than for ordinary work. He went to work for Mr. White three months ago at £4 10s. per week. He had full charge of the shop. The biggest proportion was dispensing and supervising dispensing. There were three employees under his charge. There were two apprentices, and a boy. They worked on an average 52 hours per week. The hours differed in alternate weeks. He did not consider the hours exactly satisfactory. They were a little excessive. He considered in his particular shop the work could be done in 48 hours. Such a reduction would not affect the volume of business or inconvenience the public. His shop remained open in excess of the 48 hours because of trade competition. He did not candidly think that the reduction to 48 hours could be made in some of the shops at which he worked. In a suburban shop the biggest volume of their business was done after 6 o'clock.

A 48 Hour Week.

Mr. Hunkin.—Could not arrangements be made to work the employees 48 hours?—That is a difficult question, which I am not prepared to answer.

The Deputy-President.—Would it make any difference if you started work at 9 o'clock?—No; not in the business I have been in.

Mr. Hunkin.—What per cent. of your business is done after 6 p.m.—About 10 per cent. It is mainly in selling odds and ends and a prescription. It averaged one or two prescriptions per night.

Are they urgent?—That is hard to say.

You have had considerable experience, and you know, surely.—Well, I should say that a big majority were not.

In the suburbs when was the busiest time after 6 p.m.?—Between 7 and 8 p.m. After that time it was practically nil.

Do you think the public could be educated to shop earlier than 9 o'clock, as was the case now?—Yes, I do.

If the shops were closed at an earlier hour the public could be induced to trade before that hour without inconvenience, provided that some arrangement was come to to meet urgent cases?—Yes.

Arrangements are now made for urgent prescriptions after 9 o'clock?—Yes. In the suburban areas the proprietors live on the premises.

Could not the same arrangements be made now even if the shops closed at 7 p.m.?—The difficulty of closing before 8 was that the doctors consulted between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. If these hours were altered, then the shops could close without any inconvenience.

Mr. Hunkin said that in Brisbane the chemists combined and opened an all-night pharmacy.

The witness said that the log which had been served on the proprietors was fair.

Mr. Parsons.—There are a number of prescriptions which you receive which you cannot say are urgent?—A large proportion of the cases where

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

long hours, however, were totally unnecessary in view of the small business done. The bulk of the business in the suburbs could be done before 6 o'clock without inconvenience to the public. If an all-night dispensary were opened in the city it would cope with urgent business. At Strempel's he received only £2 5s. at the beginning, and later £2 10s. His hours were from 8 a.m. till 10 p.m. on alternate nights, and from 8 a.m. till approximately 6.30 p.m. on the other days. His Sunday hours were 10 a.m. till 1 p.m., and 6 p.m. till 9 p.m. So far as he could remember, he received a half-holiday weekly. Strempel's business was large. He did not think the hours worked there were necessary, although he did not consider under the then existing conditions that they could have been altered to permit him to finish at 6 p.m. The business could have been conveniently closed at 6.30 p.m. In the Rundle-street business they opened at 8 a.m. and finished at 9 p.m. On Friday they closed at 9.45 p.m. His usual week's work was 62 hours, but at the present time he was working more. Those hours were unnecessary. The shop in which he was employed was kept open because other chemists' shops remained open. His employer had said that the number of hours during which the shop was kept open were unnecessary, and that he was in favour of closing at 6 p.m. Witness was paid £4 10s. per week. That was a fair rate of wage for 48 hours per week. Extra rates should be paid for Sunday and holiday work. Generally speaking, he did not consider it necessary to work more than one hour on those days. The hours of work had been too long for him to be able to study in order to pass the final pharmacy examination. He had had experience in relieving work, and considered that an extra rate should be paid for it. The poor conditions of employment did not encourage boys to enter the profession.

That concluded the evidence for the plaintiff.

Mr. Parsons said he proposed, before proceeding further, to confer with his clients and to lay before them the facts elicited in the evidence.

Mr. Hunkin said there were other witnesses he could call, but as there appeared to be some hope of a settlement he would refrain from doing so until Mr. Parsons and the employers had conferred.

The case was adjourned till a date to be fixed.

New Zealand Conciliation Court.

Chemists' Assistants in Christchurch (N.Z.) met the employers before the Conciliation Council on Nov. 29, and asked for an award. This was the first time in the history of the Dominion that chemists' assistants have taken such an action. The proceedings were taken in committee. The union asked that assistants be classed as apprentices, assistants, and managers, the wages to be: Apprentices, 10s. a week for first year, with a yearly increase of 10s. up to three years; registered assistants, 80s. for the first year, with increases up to 100s.; third year, 120s. thereafter; unregistered chemist, 60s., with increases to 80s. in the third year, and 100s. thereafter; managers, not less than £6 10s.

P. D. L.

New South Wales Annual Meeting.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (New South Wales Branch) was held at the registered office, 63 Pitt Street, Sydney, on the 21st November, 1916. Owing to the coal strike the use of gas and electric light was prohibited, and the Board Room presented a weird appearance under candle light. However, there was a very representative gathering, all the various suburbs being well represented.

Mr. H. D. B. Cox (Chairman of the New South Wales Branch) was in the chair, and in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, commented favourably on the position of the Branch. Special reference was made to the increased membership—which had been further increased since the first of the year (1st October, 1916) by the addition of fourteen members—and also to the financial position, the cash balance being £102/14/4, irrespective of entrance fees, which were forwarded to Melbourne and placed to the reserve funds.

The Chairman pointed out that in his opinion it was not desirable to continue the New South Wales Branch as a separate registered company, but to appoint an Advisory Board of, say, three members to deal with any matters that might arise from time to time. In order, however, to make a revision such as suggested, it was ascertained that it would be necessary for New South Wales Branch to go into voluntary liquidation, and, therefore, as possibly a number of members would not understand the position respecting the liquidation, it was decided to carry on as at present, rather than take the risk of the withdrawal of present members and the possibility of prejudice in the minds of intending ones. The good work that was being done by P.D.L., Melbourne, was also pointed out, and it was stated that it was an admitted fact that P.D.L. was practically the only body that was conserving the interest of pharmacists in certain directions.

The retiring directors, Messrs. H. D. B. Cox, E. Faris Ings, and C. J. Mallam were re-elected on the motion of Mr. F. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. L. Tucker. Mr. P. W. Minell was re-elected auditor, and Messrs. Kershaw, Matthews & Lane, solicitors, were again retained on the motion of Mr. J. K. Wilson, seconded by Mr. E. Faris-Ings.

Claim in New South Wales.

During the course of the last few weeks a member of P.D.L.—one who has been on the register since the formation of the New South Wales Branch—interviewed the Secretary with regard to a claim that had been made against him for an error made by one of his registered assistants. The claim was laid by a client of

some years standing, and as the result of the error the services of a doctor were rendered necessary. On making investigation of the case, the Secretary ascertained that the pharmacist had omitted to take out an indemnity policy and, therefore, was not covered by P.D.L. special policy with Sydney Fire Office. On pointing this out to the pharmacist, he agreed that he had no claim against P.D.L.

The matter, however, was referred to the Board of P.D.L., who decided, in view of the circumstances and the continued support of the pharmacist, to recoup him for his monetary loss, and such action was naturally greatly appreciated by the pharmacist. Fortunately, the client who made the claim was not of the blackmailing class, and was satisfied to accept the payment of medical fees foregoing any claim for loss of time and possible injury to health.

This case should serve to again show the desirability of all pharmacists joining P.D.L., and also the necessity of taking out an indemnity policy.

The Secretary (Mr J. Anderson) will be pleased to convey any information desired respecting the movement on application to him at 65 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Meeting of Directors.

The monthly meeting of directors was held at Melbourne on November 21.

Present.—The President, Mr F. Buckhurst (in the chair), and Messrs. Gulliver, Malyon, Rankin and White. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Francis, Mewkill and Sayer.

Correspondence, inwards and outwards, was read and received.

Election of New Members.—The following new members were balloted for and elected:—Reid, William B., Moonee Ponds, Victoria; Rogers, Alfred, Leichardt, New South Wales; Bradley, Samuel E., Mosman, New South Wales; Males, William R., Adelaide, S.A.

Enemy Trade Names.—A communication was received from the Sydney Western Suburbs Pharmacists' Association, forwarding copy of a communication to be addressed to the Prime Minister, asking him to withdraw the licenses granted for the use of German trade names. After discussion, it was resolved to bring the matter before the general meeting.

General Business.—The Secretary reported that there were only nine members in Victoria and seven in South Australia who had not completed their membership for the current year. Under the Articles of Association members who did not pay their subscriptions and premiums on or before 30th November forfeited their privileges of membership. It was decided to bring this under the notice of the members in question.

The President said that he was very grateful to note that out of 318 members in Victoria, such a small number had neglected to renew their membership.

Letters were received from Mr. R. C. Miller, Casterton, and Mr. Geo. M'William, Caulfield, resigning their membership. The resignations in each case were accepted.

The Secretary reported the following case:—As the result of a wholesale house supplying nitric acid for sulphurous acid a member made up a throat-spray of nitric acid and glycerine. This spray was applied to a child's throat. The child's throat was somewhat excoriated, but owing to the prompt remedial measures which were taken, it suffered no permanent ill effects. He had interviewed the member in question and had recommended a certain line of action to pursue. He did not think anything more would be heard of the matter.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement and the meeting adjourned.

Fourth Annual Meeting.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the members of Pharmaceutical Defence Limited was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on Tuesday, November 21, at 8.30 p.m.

Present.—The President (Mr. F. Buckhurst) in the chair, and Messrs. Rankin, White, Turner, Wasley, Barker, Malyon, Gulliver, Murie, Barnard, Pickford, Bartlemann, Yelland, Leete, Garrick, Newman, Hislop, Keays and the Secretary (Mr. C. L. Butchers).

On the motion of Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Garrick, the minutes of the third annual meeting were taken as read, and were confirmed on the motion of Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Gulliver.

Annual Report and Chairman's Address.—The Chairman said that the annual report and financial statement had been circulated to all the members, and he did not think that there was any necessity to have them read. A motion was therefore carried, that the report and financial statement be taken as read and formally received. The Chairman then moved their adoption. In doing so he referred to the increase in membership which had taken place during the year, and expressed his gratification that the Company now numbered 614 pharmacists, which made it by far the largest of any pharmaceutical organisation in Australia. He thought that, as pharmacists realised the privileges which the P.D.L. gave, larger numbers would join its ranks. The directors had pursued a policy of progress during the year. They had endeavoured to do their utmost to advance the best interests of chemists in connection with any matter which came under notice. In order that those pharmacists who were not members might not be ignorant of the Company's work, a copy of the annual report had been forwarded to every pharmacist in business in Australia. He believed that this was a wise policy to adopt, and that it would result in many new members being elected.

Those present would remember that at the last annual meeting they had just concluded a very successful case in which Mr. W. H. Cornell, of

Ballarat, was involved. The directors felt that this case was such an important one that they were justified in not sparing any expense in conducting it. At the same time every economy was taken to prevent undue charges. Notwithstanding this, the legal expenses totalled close on £200. Mr. Cornell, who was not under any obligation to do so, forwarded a cheque for £61 towards the expenses, and the Melbourne Fire Office also generously donated £75 as their proportion of the legal costs. This left the Company the sum of £63 to pay out of its own funds. In order to protect members against a similar case in future, the directors subsequently arranged for a special policy covering all members in respect of criminal proceedings arising out of errors in dispensing. This was another important privilege which made it worth while for pharmacists to belong to such an organisation as the P.D.L. As would be seen from the report, another pharmacist had the misfortune to have to attend a Coroner's inquest owing to the misreading of a doctor's prescription. The directors decided to watch this case, and the Company's solicitor was, therefore, engaged for that purpose. It was satisfactory to note that as a result of what was done in the case he referred to, the matter did not go beyond the Coroner's inquiry. Two other cases had also occurred, one of which, he thought, almost amounted to blackmail. In another case a pharmacist dispensed nitric acid for sulphurous acid, resulting in a child's throat being injured. The chemist in this case was not entirely to blame, as the wholesale firm which supplied the nitric acid had put it in a container labelled "sulphurous acid." Only that month a Parramatta chemist had had to attend before the Coroner owing to the death of a child he was treating. The Coroner, after hearing the evidence, acquitted him of all blame. The *Medical Journal*, however, seized the opportunity to reflect on the practice of pharmacists prescribing, and used this case as an argument. The editor wound up his diatribe by expressing the opinion that pharmacists should not even be allowed to prescribe such simple things as cough mixture and aperients. It was quite obvious that if this was the general opinion of their medical friends pharmacists would need to continue their organisation in order to be in a position to contend with such unjust claims.

During the year the Company had received about £165 from insurance commissions. This amount was equal to the subscriptions of 330 members. It only needed pharmacists to grasp the full significance of the possibilities before the Company in regard to commissions for the revenue to attain considerable dimensions. Members could help substantially by not only placing their own insurance with the offices granting these commissions, but by also inducing their friends to place their insurance with these companies.

He was very gratified to note that the Company had now to its credit in the different States the substantial sum of £882. The expenses had been heavier during the past year, owing to the increased cost of the journals which were supplied to each of their members. This was a voluntary privilege which the directors intend to continue as long as was possible; but it would be readily understood that at such a small subscription as 10/- it was not possible to carry on all these privileges unless members also assisted by giving the Company some of their insurances.

He was glad to be able to say that continued harmony had prevailed during the year between the various pharmaceutical organisations. He congratulated the Pharmaceutical Society on the increase in its membership, and alluded to the fears which existed at the formation of the P.D.L. that the society would lose some of its members. He did not wish to speak at greater length, as he thought the report fully detailed the Company's position. If any member had any suggestion to make or any criticism to offer the present was the opportunity to state his case. (Applause.)

Mr. Garrick seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, which was carried.

Election of Directors.—The following directors were declared duly elected for the ensuing two years:—Messrs. F. Buckhurst, Geo. Francis, H. J. Mewkill and F. W. White.

Election of Auditor.—The retiring auditor, Mr. Thomas Woodward, was declared duly elected at the same remuneration as the previous year.

General Business.

Enemy Trade Marks.—The Chairman asked Secretary to read a communication which had been received from the Sydney South-Western Pharmacists' Association in reference to the licenss granted for the sale of "Aspirin" and "Lysol." This communication stated that a strong effort was now being made by the various pharmaceutical organisations to induce the Prime Minister to cancel the licenses issued unless the products of such licenses were sold under names which did not suggest enemy products. It was intended to ask that the word "Eutosal" might be adopted in place of "Aspirin." What was desired was that Victorian pharmacists should co-operate in this matter, and so make the protest more effective.

The Chairman said he thought that the meeting should fall in with the suggestion of their New South Wales friends. There were many aspects of the question which it was not desirable to discuss in public and he, therefore, intended to ask the press not to report the discussion fully. After several members had expressed their views on the subject a resolution was carried, pledging the meeting to support the views set out in the communication from New South Wales. It was also decided to approve of the word "Eutosal" as a substitute for the word "Aspirin," and (if necessary) at a later date to arrange for a deputation to wait on the Prime Minister in reference to the matter.

Income Tax Question.—Mr. Barnard said there was one matter he desired to mention and that was that under the Federal and State Income Tax Schedules certain adjustments had to be made in reference to the value of household living

rooms attached to a shop or surgery. The schedule went on to say that as a general rule the proportion to be charged for dwelling accommodation was in the case of storekeepers, grocers, etc., one-half, and in the case of doctors, chemists, etc., two-thirds. He thought that pharmacists were being classed on too high a scale, and that some representation might be made by the P.D.L. in regard to the matter. The Chairman said that he would endeavour to interview the Income Tax Commissioner on the subject.

Amalgamated Insurance Company.—Mr Pickford asked if the arrangements for the transfer of the Amalgamated Insurance Co. to the London and Lancashire Co. was satisfactory to the P.D.L., and if the other insurance companies would now insure pharmacists who had portion of their premises insured in the Melbourne Fire Office.

The Chairman stated that the transfer, which had now been completed, guaranteed that the various agreements with the P.D.L. should be respected. The Melbourne Fire Office would, of course, become a tariff company, and there was no reason why its policies should not be accepted by anyone without question, as it had the substantial backing of the entire capital of the London and Lancashire Co. behind it. The P.D.L. would still nominate its own adjuster in the case of a fire happening at any pharmacy. In addition to that, pharmacists were directly represented on the board of directors of the company.

Boycotting Proprietary Medicines.—Mr. Newman asked whether it was possible to do something concertedly with a view of boycotting certain proprietary medicines which did not show a living profit. He instanced several lines which he thought came within the category mentioned, and expressed the opinion that if pharmacists were united they could force the hands of the manufacturers to grant a legitimate profit on their goods.

Mr. Rankin questioned whether this was a matter for the P.D.L. to deal with. The solution of the problem was a commercial one. It was all a question of good buying. If pharmacists got together and ordered 20 or 30 gross at a time they would get better treatment, and would thus be assured an adequate profit. They could not expect manufacturers to sell their goods at the same price when only very small quantities were ordered.

Mr Gulliver considered that it would be unwise for the P.D.L. to take any action in this matter, because they had members all over the State, and what would suit members in one locality would not suit those situated in another. The P.A.T.A. had been grappling with questions of this sort, and he thought that the matter could best be left to that body to take action.

The Chairman said he had allowed the subject to be introduced with a view of eliciting discussion rather than pledging the Company to any definite action. There was no doubt that if pharmacists could agree upon this point they might be able to achieve a good deal. The results of price cutting were deplorable in every way. He thought, however, that gradually the objects of the P.A.T.A. were being attained. Further pressure might still be brought to bear, and if the P.A.T.A. and the Metropolitan Chemists' Association took the matter up he could assure them of the hearty co-operation of the P.D.L.

Dispensers' Wages Board. Mr. Keays said that a Wages Board was being asked for by the Friendly Society dispensers. He explained the position as it affected pharmacists, and urged them to be alive to the position. The Chairman said that, so far as the P.D.L. was concerned, it had no *locus standi* in relation to the formation of a dispensers' wages board. They, therefore, could not officially oppose such a board. If, however, the board were extended to include all employees in retail pharmacies, it would be another matter. He promised that the directors would give careful attention to what was taking place in connection with the proposed board.

Votes of Thanks.—The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the Secretary, whose sympathetic efforts to advance the interests of the Company were appreciated, he felt sure, by the members generally. Mr Gulliver seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Butchers briefly responded.

Mr. Rankin moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. He eulogised the services Mr. Buckhurst had rendered to the Company since its inception, and trusted that he would long be spared to direct its affairs. Mr. Keays, in seconding the motion, referred to the ability of Mr. Buckhurst and his untiring efforts in the interests of pharmacists. Mr Buckhurst said he appreciated the kind references made to himself, and in accepting them he desired to associate his fellow directors in any commendation extended to himself. His best reward would be to see the association gain and its funds accumulate until it became a firmly-established and influential pharmaceutical organisation.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

Corn Solvent.

Salicylic acid	1 drachm.
Extract of belladonna	½ drachm.
Castor oil	½ drachm.
Powdered resin	15 grains.
Flexible collodion (acetylated)	1 ounce.

To Blacken Tan Shoes.

First wash the shoes with oil of turpentine, then with alcohol, and finally with warm water and soap. When they have dried paint with the following, giving two coats:—

Powdered galls	2 ozs.
Copperas	1 oz.
Copper sulphate	30 grs.
Acacia	1 dr.
Boiling water	2 pts.

Triturate all the solids together, pour the boiling water over them; let the mixture stand for a week and strain. When the second coat is dry the shoes are ready to be polished.

Trade & Commerce.

Neaves' Food.

Amended Prices Regulation, No. 92, fixes the wholesale price of Neave's Food in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, and Devonport (Tasmania), at 13s. 6d. per doz. tins. The retail price is fixed at 1s. 4d. per tin.

Sanatogen and Formamint.

The British Board of Trade has ordered the trade marks of Sanatogen and Formamint to be avoided. Henceforth these words are public property, and may be applied by any one to products of a like nature so far as Great Britain is concerned.

Prices of Arsenical Preparations.

An order has been issued under the War Precautions (Prices) regulations declaring arsenic and arsenical preparations necessary commodities. The Prices Commissioners in the Various States will now proceed to investigate the first costs of the articles named, with a view to recommending to the Government maximum wholesale and retail prices.

Maximum Prices for Soaps.

By Federal Proclamation, dated 12th December, 1916, the maximum prices (wholesale and retail) for soaps of all descriptions must be the prices generally prevailing in each State on 1st August, 1916. Higher prices than those ruling on the date fixed are illegal. The order came into force on December 18. Formerly only household soaps were affected, but the regulations now cover soaps of all descriptions.

Customs Regulations.

Castor Oil for Soaps.—The *Gazette* notice of May 26, 1910, permitting a drawback on crude castor oil used in the manufacture of soaps, has been cancelled.

Infants' Foods.—The manufacture of infants' foods may in future be carried out in bond, both for home consumption and export.

Trade Mark Decisions.

Lysol Trade Mark. — The registration of Schulke and Mayr's trade mark, "Lysol," has been suspended in favour of Wm. Cooper and Nephews, of Berkhampsted, England and Sydney, subject to the usual sureties.

"Apenta."—Alfred B. Bolton, Stanley-street, Kew, applied on 6th October for the suspension in his favour of the Apenta Actien Gesellschaft trade mark. The application has been refused.

Infants' Foods Prices.

Following on applications for variations in the rates previously fixed for Benger's Food and Lactogen, the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner for Victoria (Mr. R. Ovington), opened on December 12 an inquiry into the price of infants' and invalids' food. A number of representatives of the manufacturing wholesale and retail trades were present. They included:—Mr. S. Fripp, junior (Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt, and Co.), Mr. H. Stutterd (Nestle and Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Company), Mr. F. J. Wright (Henry Berry and Co. Pty. Ltd.), Mr. Arthur S. J. Pie (Messrs. James Service and Co.), Mr. H. Braithwaite (Messrs. Felton, Grimwade, and Co.), Mr. J. N. Williams (Grocers' Association), and Mr. R. Purbrick (Bacchus Marsh Concentrated Milk Co. Ltd.). The case for the retail pharmacists was stated at length, at a deputation which waited on the Commissioner a month or two ago. Arrangements were made to call further evidence if necessary at a later date. The chief reason given by the Bacchus Marsh Milk Company for an increased price was the higher cost of raw material (mainly tin plates, fresh milk, and sugars). The Sydney representative of Benger's Food, in a letter received by the Commissioner, sought to have a lower rate fixed for his product, so that its price would be brought into conformity with those of competing commodities. The Commissioner will make a recommendation regarding the applications to Senator Russell (Minister in Charge of Foodstuffs).

Manufacture of Insect Powder in Japan.

The first plantation and manufacture of insect powder in Japan was tried by Mr. Ueyamayei, of Yamatahara, Aritagun Kishu, in 1885. The product was found very effective in destroying insects. At first it was used to kill only such insects as fleas, bugs, cockroaches, lice, etc., and its production was small, but recently the demand has been increased to such an extent that it is now used to protect domestic animals and birds, and even in horticulture, and its demand has increased day by day, until it has become one of the chief productions of Japan.

Austria was the original producing country as far as planting insect flowers was concerned, but Japan, where the climate is more suitable for such plants, has now gone ahead of the original country and her manufacturing works have seen great progress within a short period. Recently Japanese insect powder has been largely exported to England, France, Australia, and America, more especially since the outbreak of the present European war.

The largest and most reliable manufacturer of these disinfectants in Japan is Mr. Ueyamayei, 3 chome, Osaka, whose factories are now busily engaged in the important industry.

The writer of an article in the "Japan Daily Commercial News" says that he once visited Wakanoura for the purpose of investigating the industry. He ascertained that almost all the insecticide manufacturers or exporters were being supplied from Mr. Ueyamayei's factories. Mr. Ueyamayei was awarded the highest commercial medal in Japan, called the "Ranjusho," by H.I.M. the Emperor of Japan in 1908, in recognition of his meritorious efforts in leading the plantation and manufacture of Japanese insecticide. He has also been honoured with the Green and White Cordon by Prince Fushimi (the President of the Japanese Agricultural and Industrial Society), as a reward for establishing large insecticide factories and exporting the product abroad. He

has also been distinguished by Baron Izawa, Governor of Kishu Prefecture.

Mr Ueyamayei states that the qualities of insect powder are generally very hard to distinguish, and very often impure qualities are shipped by some brokers and manufacturers, whose names resemble that of Mr Ueyamayei. This has caused considerable trouble to importers. To avoid any such trouble in future, Mr Ueyamayei is desirous of doing business directly with leading importers abroad.

Trade Mark Applications.

Class 3—Chemicals used in Pharmacy—

Machesta Lung Tonic.—Henry Macauley, 513 George-street, Sydney.

Iron-Ox.—The Iron Ox Remedy Co. Ltd., Canada and London, manufacturers.

Bull-Dog Ointments, Salves, Etc., Arthur McArthur, 20 Franklin street, Adelaide, herbalist and manufacturer.

Stearn's Wine.—Frederick Stearns and Co., Pyrmont, Sydney.

Tasteless Italian Castor Oil.—E. F. Downey, Sussex street, Sydney.

Class 4—Perfumery Soaps Toilet Articles, Etc—

Octo.—Lever Bros., Ltd., Balmain, Sydney, manufacturers.

Floating Duck.—Toilet Soaps, Nirvana Soap, Renwick, New South Wales.

Phul-nana.—J. Grossmith, Son and Co., London, manufacturing perfumer.

Swandown.—Face and Complexion Powder, Henry Tetlow Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, manufacturer.

Mennen's Borated Talcum.—Gerhard Mennen Chemical Co., New Jersey.

Brooke's Monkey Brand Soap.—Lever Bros., Ltd., Balmain, Sydney.

Personal & Business.

Properly authenticated paragraphs, preferably sent by the persons interested, are inserted under this heading.

New South Wales.

Harold St. Clair Elliott died at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on November 16, 1915. He was a younger son of the late Dr. George Roberts Elliott, and left an estate in New South Wales valued at £31,511, together with an English estate valued at £10,546.

Pharmacy Lectures.—In the medical and pharmacy course at the Sydney University, the instruction in botany has been re-modelled and made of more practical use to pharmacists. A fine collection of materia medica specimens is being got together, and pharmacy students now their appreciation of the greater facilities afforded them for study.

The December Preliminary Examination of the New South Wales Pharmacy Board will be one of the largest held for a considerable time. There are 35 candidates, of whom 9 will sit in country towns, and the rest at St. James Hall, Sydney. There is a scarcity of assistants, and a large influx of apprentices will be welcomed by the master pharmacists of city and suburbs.

Queen Emma, the last native Queen of the La Perouse tribe of blacks, died on November 20th, at the age of 75. When young an attempt was made to wean her from native ways, but in vain. On one occasion, when she was ill, she was taken to Little Bay Hospital, but all the medicine she would take was a bucket full of sea water, taken from the ocean at a particular state of the tide.

Mr. George Black resigned his portfolio in the Department of Public Health because he considered that the coalition of the Labourites with the Liberals was in direct opposition to Labour principles. True, the Labourites had expelled him, but this made no difference. He promises to support the Holman Ministry, but will not hold office with them. This is a great loss, as he made an excellent Minister for Public Health, and many much needed reforms will be hung up by his resignation.

Henry Christopher Scully, who gave evidence for the Crown in the recent I.W.W. trials, was registered as a pharmacist in New South Wales on March 9th, 1915. He was the registered manager of the Red Star Pharmacy, in Market Street. He was registered under the reciprocity agreement with Queensland, and passed his qualifying examination at Brisbane on 18th December, 1905. Mr. Scully lectured before the I.W.W. meetings in Sydney on the use of certain chemicals.

The Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, Vice-President of the Executive Council, is also Minister for Health and for Local Government. Unfortunately Mr. Fitzgerald is not in robust health, and it is feared that his multitudinous duties in other spheres will not enable him to give the close attention to health matters that his predecessor gave. Mr. George Black left a lot of work in an incomplete state at the time of his resignation, and his loss will be felt, especially by country hospitals.

Mr. John Tebutt, a noted New South Wales astronomer, died at his residence, Windsor, on November 29th, at the age of 83. He was a native of Windsor, and lived there practically all his life. Though self taught, he became an astronomer of world-wide fame, especially on the observation of comets. In 1873 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Besides being an astronomer, he was a successful farmer, and specialised in the growing of potatoes, and his JT brand always fetched top market prices.

Victoria.

Mr. J. Hetherington is assisting Mr J. Barnes, of Horsham.

Mr. P. Mulhall has sold his business at Seymour to Mr F. E. Oaten.

Mr. H. L. Hastings is relieving at Mr. H. Paubbins, North Melbourne.

Mr. F. G. Chamberlain is relieving Mr. H. J. Massey, Parkville.

Miss Irene Hearne has accepted a position at the Geelong Dispensary.

Mr. C. V. Browne has accepted a position as traveller for Messrs. G. R. Nicholas & Co.

Mr. H. Watson, a recent arrival from India, has accepted a position with Mr. S. H. Blake, Flinders Street.

Mr. A. McNeel is relieving Mr. F. T. Stone, of Mildura, who, owing to ill-health, has had to take a holiday at King Island.

Mr. D. Shaw is relieving Mr. F. Cathcart, Canterbury, and goes on to Mr. A. F. Vale, Kensington, in January.

Mr. W. A. Gordon is relieving Mr. H. P. Bennett, Terang. His next engagement is with Messrs. Witt & Co., Prahran.

Mr. J. McKay, who was for 30 years at Yarrawonga, is managing Mr. T. A. C. Sayle's new branch pharmacy at Black Rock.

Mrs. J. B. Henry, late of Fairfield, has been appointed dispenser at the Bendigo Hospital at a salary of £150 per annum and quarters.

Mr. E. P. Plummer, after fulfilling an engagement with Mr. N. P. Pitts, Newmarket, has arranged to relieve Mr. J. F. George, Gardenvale.

Miss Ethel Leon (Ph.C., Vict.) intends leaving shortly for the United States with three girl friends. She will probably take advantage of the opportunity to gain further pharmaceutical experience in America.

Mr. W. O. Straede, after relieving at the Brighton Dispensary, goes on to the Hawthorn Dispensary for a month, from 1st January. He was relieving Mr. Sayer, of Bendigo, for a week or two previously.

Mr. J. N. Barcham has compiled an interesting "Guide to Portland," which has been printed and circulated with a view of popularising the town, which, in recent years, has come into prominence as a charming seaside resort.

Mr. Samuel Adamson, pharmaceutical chemist, Ireland, has purchased Mr. J. C. Pickford's share in the business of Messrs. Witt and Co., and Norris and Co., Chapel-street, Prahran. His partner is Mr. J. F. Young, also an Irish pharmacist, and a personal friend of Mr. Adamson's before he came to Australia.

Window Dressing Competition.—The Chamber of Manufacturers' prizes for the best dressed chemists' windows were awarded as follows:—First Prize—Bowen and Co., Swanston-street (dressed by H. C. Sutton). Second Prize—Max Landmann, 621 Burwood-road, Auburn.

Gunner P. F. J. Winch (No. 8022), of the 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, son of Mr. P. J. Winch, of Armadale, who took part in the big push on the Somme, sustained a severe gunshot would in the left buttock and was admitted to the Second Southern General Hospital, Bristol, on 20th November. Reports from the Base Records, Melbourne, state that Gunner Winch is making satisfactory progress.

Scholarships Awarded.—In the list of Trinity College Scholarships, recently published, the names of Shirley Elliston Francis, son of Mr. Geo. Francis, member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and of Sidney Plowman, son of the lecturer in Chemistry and Botany at the Melbourne College of Pharmacy, appear, as having gained Scholarships of the respective annual values of £35 and £25.

Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. have issued a tastefully-designed Jubilee Souvenir. It is an interesting historical record of the firm's progress since its establishment in 1866. The terse opening sentence, "The House of Parke, Davis & Co. was born in a drug store," serves to illustrate from what small beginnings a large, world wide industry may be developed. The souvenir is tastefully printed and well illustrated, and should be read with interest by medical men and pharmacists.

Athletic Honours—The two sons of Dr. Plowman have gained some distinction in college athletics, and have thus followed in the steps of their father, who was, in his younger days, an athlete of moderate repute. At Duntroon Military College, Mr. Frank Plowman has secured the championship in the Mile Walk, and is runner-up for the Singles Tennis Championship. Mr. Sidney Plowman, junr., has tied with Mr. Fetherstonhaugh for the championship in gymnastics at Geelong Grammar School.

Chemical Industry Society.—At the Annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry of Victoria, held on November 22, the Secretary, Mr. R. Boan, stated that a scheme was on foot to establish a Commonwealth Institute of Chemists. A balance of £7 10s. was reported on the year's work. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: — President, Mr. J. Booth; Vice-President, Mr. E. S. Richards; Secretary, Mr. R. Boan; Treasurer, Mr. P. G. W. Bayley; Auditor, Mr. C. L. Hall; Members of Council, Messrs. Heber Green and L. B. Davies.

Victorian Association of Chemists' Assistants—At the general monthly meeting of the Victorian Association of Chemists' Assistants, held December 14th, complimentary references were made to the highly entertaining and instructive lecture delivered by Mr. T. E. Turner, "The Explanation of the Metric System in reference to Pharmacy," for which a vote of thanks was unanimously carried with applause. A presentation of a handsome case of silver and cutlery was made to the Secretary (Mr. Arthur Kenny), in recognition of his services. The chairman, in a short speech, expressed appreciation of the members for the work performed, and wished the members the compliments of the season and a prosperous New Year for the efforts of the Association. A congratulatory letter was directed to be forwarded to Mr. J. Carroll, complimenting him on having passed the Intermediate Examination.

Mr. S. V. Penrose, pharmacist, of Newcastle, N.S.W., who is visiting Melbourne, was entertained at lunch by the members of the Pharmacy Board on December 14th. Mr. Penrose is a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales. In a few

words the President of the Board (Mr. Fowl) warmly welcomed Mr. Penrose and expressed the hope that his stay would be an enjoyable one. Western pharmacists were always pleased to see their colleagues from a sister State, and it was a pleasure to have an opportunity of meeting them and of discussing matters of mutual interest. Mr. Penrose, in replying, expressed his thanks for the kind hospitality tendered to him, which he warmly appreciated. The more pharmacists got together and learned to trust each other the better for all concerned. There was no room for internal differences in their ranks. Anything which tended to promote harmony had his wholehearted support. He believed that the establishment of a Federal journal was one means of bringing the craft together and extending its influence. Even if such a proposal cost money, it would be, in his opinion, money well spent. He was hopeful that something in this direction would be done in the near future. He would go away from the gathering with many happy memories of an enjoyable hour spent with his pharmaceutical colleagues in Victoria.

Queensland.

Mr. C. Morely, of Tweed Heads, visited Brisbane during the month.

Mr. Graham, also from Drysdale's Ltd., is going to the London Pharmacy, Ipswich.

Mr. Norris has returned to manage Mrs. Hall's business in Ipswich.

Mr. Webb, lately with Mr. J. Lunn, of Sandgate, has gone into camp, and **Mr. Rowcroft** has taken his place.

Mr. A. E. White is another young pharmacist who has recently joined the military forces.

Mr. P. Kelly, late of Cairns, is now in Sydney.

Mr. C. J. Miles, late of Kelvin Grove, has also gone to Sydney.

Mr. A. J. Brown, lately managing for Mrs. Hall, Ipswich, has been engaged to manage a pharmacy in Maryborough.

Mr. Simpson, late with Mr. W. V. Noble, of Toowoomba, has gone to Rowe and Co., Rockhampton.

Mr. Connolly, formerly with Messrs. Rowe and Co., has joined the military forces, and is now in camp at Enoggera.

Mr. Maher, lately a student in the College of Pharmacy, has been engaged by Mr. St. V. Tubb, of Toowoomba.

Mr. F. Sutherland, late of Edward street, is now employed by Mr. V. L. Wilkinson, of George street.

Mr. H. I. C. Dent is recovering from his recent operation for appendicitis, and is recruiting his health in Sydney.

Mr. S. V. Meredith, of Gympie, and **Mr. Bernard**, of Maryborough, are visiting Brisbane.

Mr. A. E. Whitehead, late of the London Pharmacy, Ipswich, has joined the military forces, and is engaged at the Base Depot.

Mr. Moore, late with Drysdale's Ltd., has been engaged as manager of the London Pharmacy, Ipswich.

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, lately with the R.A.F.S. Dispensary, and **Mr. Bray**, formerly with Messrs. W. H. Greer, of Townsville, have gone to Drysdale's Ltd.

Western Australia.

Mr. A. G. Kidston Hunter has been visiting the Eastern States.

Mr. Norman S. Craven has been registered as the proprietor of the London-New York Drug and Optical Co., 187 Barrack-street, Perth.

Captain J. B. George has been kept busy in connection with his military and pharmaceutical duties. In the Christmas number of the "Western Mail" an excellent full-page illustration is printed, showing Captain George in the art of vaccinating the troops at the Blackboy Camp. In the background of the picture is Lieut. F. C. Constable (of Messrs. Neale,

Constable and Co.). Captain George is the son of the late Mr. J. B. George, of Victoria, a Past President of the Pharmaceutical Society. Since he came to Western Australia he has taken a leading part in pharmaceutical affairs.

Fatal Overdose of Strychnine.

According to a cablegram published in the Australian newspapers on Dec. 19, J. McEwan, a steward from the steamer Moeraki, died in the Christchurch (N.Z.) Hospital on Dec. 18 from an overdose of strychnine accidentally administered by a nurse. Two solutions of strychnine were kept in separate bottles, one concentrated and one diluted. The nurse gave McEwan a large dose of the former.

Metropolitan Chemists' Association.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The 40th monthly meeting was held in the College of Pharmacy on December 14th.

Present: Messrs. J. F. Hughes (chairman), F. G. Barnard, A. Murie, A. L. Jones, A. Stevenson, T. A. Lawrence, E. C. McClellan, J. Hislop, J. Champion and J. Garrick.

Unorthodox Prescribing.—Another crop of peculiarities was reported, amongst those submitted may be mentioned Comstock's Worm Pellets, Capsolin, Glycothyusolin, Glycoheroin, Oatine Cream, Ayer's Sarsaparilla, Antiphlogistine, Eumenthol Jubes and Resinol Ointment, many of the above being merely verbal instructions to the patients.

Holiday Closing.—The delegates reported that their respective sections had decided to remain closed on December 25 and 26 and January 1st during the hours named hereunder:—

City Section	... Usual Sunday hours.
Northern Section	... 12 noon till 6 p.m.
South Suburban	... 12 noon till 6 p.m.
South Melbourne	... 12.30 p.m. till 6 p.m.
North Melbourne	... 12.30 p.m. till 6.30 p.m.

It was decided that the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer are officers of the Central Committee, and not delegates from their particular sections, therefore if a delegate is appointed to either of the positions mentioned, his section is entitled to elect another delegate to fill the vacancy thus caused.

J. GARRICK, Hon. Gen. Sec.

THE MEDICAL ACT 1915, PART III.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Medical Act 1915, and the Regulations made thereunder, it is hereby notified that an ELECTION will be held to fill TWO ORDINARY VACANCIES on the Board (caused by the retirement, through effluxion of time, on the 10th February next, of William Henry Fleay, and Charles Edward Towl, respectively), and it is further notified that, in accordance with the requirements of the said Act and Regulations, Thursday, the 18th day of January, 1917, has been appointed as the day of nomination.

It is required that the nomination papers of all candidates be delivered, addressed to me, at the office of the Pharmacy Board, Melbourne, before 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the said 18th day of January, 1917.

In the event of more than two candidates being nominated for any vacancy, a POLL will be TAKEN on the 6th day of February, 1917.

Nomination forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary to the Pharmacy Board, Melbourne.

SAMUEL BAIRD,
Returning Officer.

Pharmacy Board Office, Melbourne,
20th December, 1916.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

December Examination Questions.

LATIN (Time allowed: Three hours).—1. Translate either both of the given pieces from Caesar, or both from Virgil.

2. Parse words in italics in the passages chosen for translation.

3. Decline, giving meaning and gender of nouns, meaning of adjectives and pronouns: Nouns: Deus, pedes, fructus; adjectives: nullus, amplior; pronouns: alius, idem.

4. Give, in columns, for the following nouns, meaning, gender, genitive and ablative, singular and plural:—lumen, dies, quercus, poeta, obses.

5. (a) Give meaning and comparison of the adjectives tutus, acer, malus, multus, grandis; and of the adverbs: aegre, audacter, bene, ample, magnopere.

(b) Give the Latin for eight, eighth, eight each, the seventeenth ship, two thousand horses, a thousand horse soldiers.

6. (a) What is oratio obliqua, or indirect statement? State the moods to be used (i.) in principal, (ii.) in dependent clauses. Translate—Caesar said that he was pursuing the Helvetti who had marched out of their territories.

(b) State what particles and moods are used in final clauses or clauses expressing purpose. Translate—Men eat that they may live, men work hard that they may not be poor.

7. (a) Give the chief parts and meanings of the following verbs:—Moveo, committo, converto, intercludo, divido, transeo, proficiscor, potior, conor. Give also the present infinitive passive (where used) and the future participle active of these verbs.

(b) Write out—
Present subjunctive active exeo.
Imperfect subjunctive passive duco.
Imperfect indicative possum.
Imperfect subjunctive passive facio.
Pluperfect subjunctive deponent adorior.
An imperative active and passive do.

8. Translate into Latin:—
(a) Women are now doing those things which men used to do.
(b) If you were to read those books you would become wiser.
(c) Caesar hopes that he will arrive soon in Hither Gaul.

ARITHMETIC (Time allowed: Two hours and a half). 1. Simplify the following fraction:—

$$\frac{(7\frac{3}{11} + 2\frac{1}{4} - 8\frac{7}{22})\ (1\frac{1}{4} - 3\frac{10}{11})}{\frac{5}{6} \times (\frac{1}{8} - \frac{7}{8} - \frac{5}{12})}$$

2. Reduce to a single decimal—

$$\frac{(1{\cdot}205 - {\cdot}25) \times (\frac{5}{8} - \frac{2}{5})}{1.4 + 3{\cdot}375}$$

3. From a rod 1 yard long portions each .507 of an inch long are cut off. How many such portions will there be, and what will be the length of the piece remaining?

4. A dealer sold tea at 2s. per lb., gaining thereby 20 per cent. In consequence of a fall in the duty the tea cost 1ss. 8d. less per cwt., and he sold it at 1s. 9½d. per lb. How much per cent. did he then gain?

5. At what rate per cent., simple interest, will £183 6s. 8d. amount to £230 1s. 8d. in 5 years 8 months?

6. A man has goods worth £950. For what sum should he insure them at 5 per cent., so that in the event of the loss of the goods he may recover the value of the goods and also the premium paid for insuring them?

7. A debtor can pay 17s. 6d. in the £1, but if 20 per cent., were taken off his debts, he could pay his creditors in full, and have £45 over. Find his debts and his assets.

8. 21 kilogrammes 17 decagrammes 37 decigrammes 14 milligrammes is multiplied by 7; 13 kilogrammes 3 hectogrammes 51 grammes 32 centigrammes is divided by 8. The latter result is subtracted from the former. Give answer in grammes.

9. If oxygen is 15.96 times as heavy as hydrogen, and 1 litre of hydrogen weighs .0896 grammes, what would be the volume of 4.75 grammes of oxygen

10. Show that 8 kilometres is approximately equal to 5 miles.

ENGLISH (Time allowed: Two hours.)—1. Write an essay on—

(a) The Beautification of Cities.
(b) Hospitals.

or

(c) "The World is too much with us."

Pay particular attention to spelling, punctuation, and division into paragraphs.

2. Give the general and the detailed analysis of:

When I find myself awakened into being, and perceive my life renewed within me, and at the same time see the whole face of Nature recovered out of the dark uncomfortable state in which it lay for several hours, my heart overflows with such secret sentiments of joy and gratitude, as are a kind of implicit praise to the great Author of Nature.

3. Correct or justify, with reasons, the following sentences:

(a) He who neglects time, time will neglect.
(b) More than one Emperor prided himself upon his skill as a swordsman.
(c) This is one of the best, if not absolutely the best, book we have ever read.
(d) After a course of physical training, he became a very clever extortionist.

4. Give, in prose, the sense of the following lyric by Wordsworth—

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began,
So is it now I am a man,
So be it when I shall grow old
Or let me die!
The child is father to the man:
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

5. Who wrote: "Ode to a Skylark," "The Forsaken Merman," "News from Nowhere"? Indicate very briefly the subject of the last piece.

6. Explain the following passages, and state where each occurs:—

(a) . . . . a gloworm lamp
It cheered mild Spenser, called from Faery-land
To struggle through dark ways.
(b) Round many western islands have I been
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold
(c) From spur to plume a star of tournament
(d) Drowsed with the fume of poppies.
(e) They thought that they were doing battle for an injured beauty, while they defended a false and loathsome sorceress.

7. Write out

(a) The verse beginning, "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness."
(b) "Crossing the bar," the whole.

ALGEBRA (Time allowed: Two hours.)—1. Find the continued product of the factors—

$a^2 + ab + b^2$, $a^2 - ab + b^2$, $a^4 + a^2b^2 + b^4$.

2. Divide—

$x^6 - x^5 - 56x^4 + x^3 + 68x^2 - 20$ by $x^2 + 7x - 5$.

3. Reduce to lowest terms—

$$\frac{x^3 + 4x^2 - 27x - 90}{x^3 + 11x^2 - 63x + 90}.$$

4. Simplify—

(i) $\dfrac{a-b}{(a-b)(a-c)} + \dfrac{b-c}{(b-c)(b-a)} + \dfrac{c-a-b}{(c-a)(c-b)}$.

(ii) $\left(\dfrac{x}{x-y} - \dfrac{y}{x+y}\right) \div \left(\dfrac{x^2}{x^2-y^2} - \dfrac{y^2}{x^2-y^2}\right)$.

5. Find the factors of

(i) $12x^2 + 7xy - 12y^2$.
(ii) $2(ad + bc) - (a^2 - b^2 - c^2 - d^2)$.
(iii) $x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4$.
(iv) $a^2 - ab - ac + bc$

6. Solve the equation

$$\frac{(5x+1)(x-2) - (4x-3)(3x-1)}{(7x+2)(x+1)} = 10$$

7. Solve the simultaneous equations

$$\frac{3x-5y}{2} + 3 = \frac{2x+y}{5}.$$

$$8 - \frac{x-2y}{4} = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{y}{3}.$$

8. Solve the quadratic equation

$$\frac{x+1}{x+2} = \frac{x-3}{x-4} + \frac{x-5}{x^2-6x+8}.$$

9. A man bought a horse and a carriage together for £80. He sold the horse at a profit of 20 per cent. and the carriage at a loss of 4 per cent., and found that on the whole transaction he had made a profit of 5 per cent. on his whole outlay. Find how much he gave for each.

GEOMETRY—The Substance of Euclid, Books I. and II. (Time allowed: Two hours.) Eight questions from the first book are set, and four from the second, but candidates are not required to work the whole paper. Any ten questions correctly answered will secure full marks. Any three questions correctly done from the first book, together with any two from the second, will be considered a pass.

1. If two triangles have two sides and the included angle in one respectively equal to the corresponding parts in the other, the triangles shall be equal in all respects.

2. If the angles at the base of a triangle are equal, the sides subtending those angles shall also be equal.

3. Show how to bisect a given angle, and prove your construction.

4. If one side of a triangle be greater than another, the angle opposite the greater side shall be greater than the angle opposite the less.

5. State and prove the converse of the above proposition.

6. Show that the three interior angles of any triangle are together equal to two right angles.

7. Prove that the interior angles of a five-sided rectilineal figure are equal together to six right angles.

8. Prove that the square on the side opposite to the right angle in a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the sides containing the right angle.

9. If a straight line is divided into any two parts the square on the whole line shall be equal to the sum of the squares on the two parts together with twice the rectangle contained by the parts.

10. Show by pure geometry that the difference of the squares on two unequal straight lines is equal to the rectangle contained by the sum and the difference of those lines.

11. Prove that the square on the side opposite to the obtuse angle in an obtuse-angled triangle is greater than the sum of the squares on the sides containing the obtuse angle by twice the rectangle contained by either of those sides and the projection on it of the other.

12. Show how to find a straight line the square on which shall be equal to a given rectilineal figure.

Intermediate Examination.

CHEMISTRY Examiners: Dr. Heber Green and Mr. R. L. Stanton (Time allowed: Three hours).—1. What is meant by the term "Saturated Compound"? In each of the following cases state whether the compound is saturated or not, and give reasons for your answer: (a) Water, (b) Sulphur Dioxide, (c) Hydrogen Chloride, (d) Ethane, (e) Ethylene.

2. Describe and formulate the action of Sulphuretted Hydrogen on Aqueous Solutions of (a) Mercuric Chloride, (b) Caustic Potash, (c) Sulphurous Acid, (d) Ferric Chloride, (e) Lead Acetate.

3. What is an Alcohol? Give a full account of the preparation, chemical properties, and molecular constitution of Ethyl Alcohol.

4. "The chief chemical properties of Nitric Acid are its powerful oxidising capacity, and its activity as an acid." Illustrate this statement by a description of its reactions with different classes of elements and of compounds.

5. Give the name, formula, and properties of a compound containing 30.43 per cent. Nitrogen and 69.57 per cent. Oxygen. How would you distinguish between this compound and a mixture of the same elements in the same proportions?

6. What tests would you apply for the identification of the following:—(a) Acetates, (b) Iodides, (c) Sulphites, (d) Thiosulphates, (e) Nitrites.

MATERIA MEDICA Examiner: Dr. F. Hobill Cole (Time allowed: Two hours).—1. Write an essay on the drying of drugs.

2. Write an essay on Starch.

3. Write, as fully as you can, an account of Fungi, dealing with their structure, incidence, and influence.

4. Write what you know of Oleum Abietis, Oleum Chaulmoograe, Oleum Terebinthinae Rectificatum.

5. Write what you know of Guaiacol Carbonas, Barbitonum, Theobrominae et Sodii Salicylas, Methylsulphonal.

6. Refer to their Natural Orders—Artichoke, Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Garlic, Lentils, Lettuce, Parsnip, Parsley, Tomato, Turnip.

BOTANY Examiner: Rev. J. Stephen Hart, M.A. (Time allowed: Two hours).—1. Families: Rutaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Polygonaceae.

(a) Give three or four characteristics of each of the above families by which they may be distinguished from the others studied.

(b) Give, with examples, a full account of any one of them.

2. Describe the structure and life-history of Saccharomyces.

3. How does the structure of the stem of a dicotyledonus tree permit its increase in thickness? Show why this increase is more necessary for dicotyledons than for monocotyledons.

4. What are the more important nitrogenous substances found in plants? In what forms is the nitrogen absorbed?

5. (a) What is the difference between deciduous and evergreen plants, and how is it connected with conditions of climate?

(b) Give examples of leaves modified for protection of organs, for support, for defence, for obtaining food.

6. Explain the terms used in describing stamens.

7. Describe the structure of the seed of bean or pea, and the process of its germination.

Final Examination.

SECTION 1. (b). PRACTICAL DISPENSING AND PRESCRIPTION READING. (Examiners, Messrs. Buckhurst, Gulliver and Sayer.) (Time allowed: Three hours).—

N.B.—It is expected that the work will be completed within the specified time. If the time allowed is exceeded, marks will be deducted.

1. R Ung. Hydrarg. Co. 50 grammes.
   Sig. m.d.u nocte maneque.

2. R Pot. Permang. gr. ii.
   Excipiens q.s. ft. pil. i.
   Mitte tales xii varnish.
   Sig. ii. q. q. h. si opus sit.

3. R Mist. Ferri. Co. ℥ x.
   Sig. ℥ ss ex aq. ℥ ss. bis die.

4. R Lin. Hydrarg. 90 mils.
   Ft. Lin.
   Sig. Utend omn. alt. hor.

5. R Syr. Ferri. Iodid. ℥ iv.
   Sig. ℥ i. ex aq. ℥ ii. ter in die sumendus post cibos.

At the termination of the Practical Dispensing Examination, candidates will be examined orally in Prescription Reading.

SECTION 1. (a). WRITTEN WORK. (Examiner, Mr. A. R. Bailey.) (Time allowed: Three hours.).—

1. Give the ingredients and the proportions of the following B.P. drugs; also the doses in Imperial and Metric weights and measures, the antidotes and incompatibles of:—

Tr. Quin. Ammon.	Liq. Arsen. et Hydrarg.
Tr. Colchici.	Iodidi.
Tr. Nucis Vom.	P. Jalapae Co.
Liq. Hydrarg. Perchlor.	Syr. Chloral.
Pulv. Ipecac. Co.	P. Kino Co.
Tr. Strophanthus	Tr. Digitalis.
Tr. Opii.	Injectio Cocainae Hypo.
Tr. Bellad.	Tr. Iodi. Mit.

—[15 marks.]

2. How much Sulphuric Acid s.g. 1.841 will be required to make one pint dilute Sulphuric Acid s.g. 1.180?

[10 marks.]

3. What are the general principles underlying the manufacture of the Extracts of the British Pharmacopoeia

What precautions are to be observed in their preparation?

—[15 marks.]

4. B.P. states that Boracic Acid is soluble in 25 parts of water, in 1 of glycerin, and in 30 of alcohol (90 per cent.), the solution being clear.

What is meant by solubility?

How is it determined?

—[10 marks.]

5. Give the B.P. approximate equivalents in Imperial weights and measures of—

0.03 mils.	0.3 milligrams.
0.5 mils.	2.0 milligrams
0.11 mils.	5.0 milligrams.
5.0 mils.	2.0 decigrams.
24.0 mils.	14.0 grammes.

and the Metric equivalents of—

1 25th Imperial grain.	2 minims.
1 10th Imperial grain.	12 minims.
4 Imperial grains.	ƒ℥ fs.
30 Imperial grains.	ƒ℥ fs.
45 Imperial grains.	1 pint.

—[10 marks.]

6. How would you make one pint Tinctura Pruni Virginianae? Criticise the method.

—[10 marks.]

7. The supply of bread to the Military Camps is not considered to be up to the standard. A loaf of bread is sent in for examination. State exactly how you would proceed to analyse and report on it.

8. How should the following sales be made over the counter?—

℥ ij. Easton's Syrup.	Belladonna Plasters.
℥ i. Tincture Iodine.	½oz. Strychnine.
℥ i. Laudanum.	Tabellae Menthol et Cocainae containing 1 per cent. cocaine.
Phenyle, containing 4 per cent. Phenol.	
1 pint Spirits of Salts.	Prussic Acid.
Tabellae Sulphonal, .5 gramme.	

—[10 marks.]

9. How would you estimate the percentage of alcohol in a tincture, and its extractive value?

—[8 marks.]

10. What appearance should the following mixture present?—

R	Ac. Phosphoric dil.	.5
	Tr. Ferri Perchlor.	.6
	Mag. Sulph.	1.0
	Glycerin	2.0
	Sp. Chlorof.	.6
	Inf. Quassiae	ad. 15.0 mitte 240

—[7 marks.]

Five marks may be awarded for Method.

SECTION III. (a).—WRITTEN WORK. (Examiners, Mr. Sidney Plowman, F.R.C.S., and Mr. R. L. Stanton.) (Time allowed: Three hours).—

1. Describe the preparation of Sodium Bicarbonate, starting from Sodium Chloride.

How may it be converted to the normal Carbonate, and what tests may be employed to distinguish between these two Carbonates?

2. Discuss the chemistry of incompatibilities occurring in prescriptions containing the following:—

(a) Ammon. Carb. and Syr. Scillae.
(b) Strontium Bromide and Magnesium Sulphate.
(c) Acid Nitro-hydrochloric dil. and Potass. Bromide.
(d) Liq. Arsenicalis and Liq. Strychninae.
(e) Tr. Iodi. and Lin. Camph. Ammon.
(f) Tr. Ferri Perchlor. and Tr. Cinchonae.

[illegible] Write what you know of the B.P. Phosphates. How may the two official Phosphates of Sodium be distinguished from one another in the laboratory?

[illegible] the purity of Chloral Hydrate, five c.c.s of the given sample are heated with [illegible] N/1 Sodium Hydroxide until the reaction is complete. The excess of Soda is now completely neutralised by titrating with 0.1 c.c. N/1 Sulphuric Acid. What standard of purity does this indicate? [illegible] of account of the preparation of Salicylic Acid. Show how it is related to Acetyl Salicylic Acid and Methyl Salicylate.

Discuss the chemical reactions taking place in the production of the following:

Acidum Hydrocyanicum dilutum
Argentum Acidi Borici
Liquor Ammonii Citratis
Pigmentum Cocciniae
Zinci Oxidum Ras

SECTION III.—PRACTICAL WORK. (Time allowed, Three hours.)

1. Determine volumetrically the strength of the given sample of Acidum Hydrocyanicum Dilutum (specific gravity '998) marked A, by means of the given solution of $\frac{N}{10}$ $AgNO_3$.

HCN 27·018 $AgNO_3$ 169·89.

2. Identify the sample of B.P. substance marked B.

3. Examine the sample of Magnesium Carbonate marked C for the presence of the following as impurities: Arsenic, Copper, Lead, Aluminium, Iron, Zinc, Chlorides, Sulphates and Chlorides.

NOTICES.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

TEXT BOOKS IN ENGLISH, 1917-18.

FOR the September and December, 1917, and March and June, 1918, Examinations the English Text Books will be one of Scott's Novels and selections from Palgrave's GOLDEN TREASURY OF ENGLISH LYRICS. The following numbers from the Golden Treasury are prescribed, viz., Nos. 112, 113, 120*, 143, 165*, 174*, 179, 208*, 210*, 211*, 215*, 218*, 225, 240, 261*, 267 and 276. Selections marked with an asterisk require to be memorised.

C. L. BUTCHERS,
Registrar.

Melbourne,
December 20, 1916.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, MELBOURNE

THE Lectures for 1917 commence on Monday, February 5. Particulars as to fees, etc., will be found on page 21 of the advertisements.

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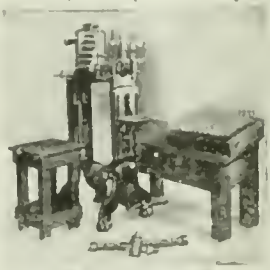

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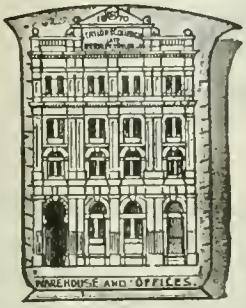

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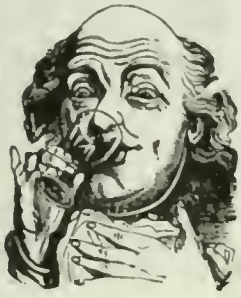

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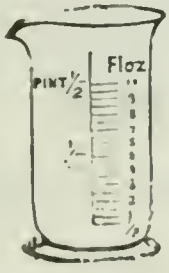

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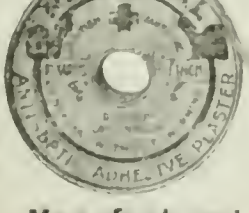

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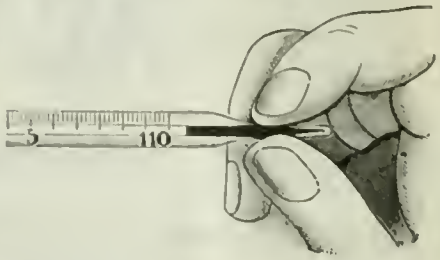

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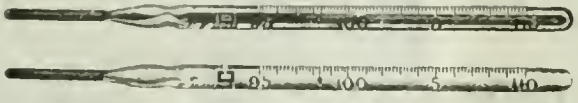

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THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

AS required by Section 95, Sub-section of the "Medical Act 1915," Part III., is held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, Swanston Street, Melbourne, in MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER.

Next Examination THURSDAY and FRIDAY, 1st and 2nd March, 1917.

The following are the compulsory subjects:—

LATIN.—Grammar, accidence and syntax. Translation of simple sentences into Latin. Translation into English from Cæsar, De Bello, Gallico, Book I., Chapter 1-29, inclusive, or Vergil Aeneid, Book I., Lines 1-401, inclusive.

ENGLISH.—Grammar and Composition. Literature. The University Text Book in English.

ENGLISH TEXT BOOK.

The Text Book in English for December, 1916, and March and June, 1917, will be:

English Prose and Verse (F. Sinclaire, M.A.) Part I.

To be memorised:

Shakespeare—*When to the Sessions.*
When Icicles Hang.

Milton—*Paradise Lost* ("He scarce had ceased" to end of selection.)
When I Consider.

Keats—*Ode to Autumn*
Much Have I Travelled.

Wordsworth—*The Solitary Reaper.*
Scorn Not the Sonnet.

Tennyson—*Break, Break, Break.*
Crossing the Bar.

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions; simple and compound proportion; profit and loss; simple and compound interest; true and commercial discount and present worth; extraction of square root; British and metrical system of weights and measures; problems relating to lineal, square and cubic measurements, averages.

ALGEBRA.—Notation, symbolic expressions, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Highest common factor and lowest common multiple. Fractions, cyclic order. Extraction of square root. Proof of algebraical identities. Simple equations of one and two variables. Quadratic equations of one variable. Equational problems.

GEOMETRY.—The substance of Euclid Books I and II. Any recognised Text Book may be used. Examination Fee, £1 1s.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

The questions given at the examinations are published in the "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy" for March, June, September and December in each year. 1s a copy.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

MATERIA MEDICA, BOTANY, CHEMISTRY, AND PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.

THE EXAMINATION of Students who have attended the Lectures in the above subjects is held half-yearly in June and December. The next examination will be held at the COLLEGE OF PHARMACY early in June, 1917.

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THE FINAL EXAMINATION

The next FINAL EXAMINATION IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY before the Board will be held at the College of Pharmacy on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th March, 1917.

Candidates must give ten days' written notice of their intention to present themselves. Indentures of Apprenticeship and the Certificates required by Sections 96 and 98 of "The Medical Act, 1915," Part III., must be lodged with the Registrar, and the Fee of Three Guineas paid ten days prior to the day of examination.

NOTICE TO REGISTRAR OF INTENTION TO BE EXAMINED.

Every candidate desirous of being examined shall, ten days previous to the day fixed for examination, give the Registrar written notice of his intention to present himself for examination, and pay the prescribed fee. Entry forms are obtainable at the office.

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REGISTRATION OF INDENTURES OF APPRENTICESHIP.

Every person who shall have obtained a certificate of having passed the Preliminary Examination, and who shall have entered into articles of agreement as an apprentice with a registered pharmaceutical chemist, shall, on production of such certificate, and of such articles of agreement, and upon payment of the fee of one guinea, be entitled, upon application to the Registrar within three months of the date of such articles, to have his name placed upon the Register of Apprentices. The term of apprenticeship is for four years. Indentures must be in triplicate. Apprenticeship Indenture Forms (three copies) may be obtained from the offices of the Board. (Charge, 2s 6d per set.)

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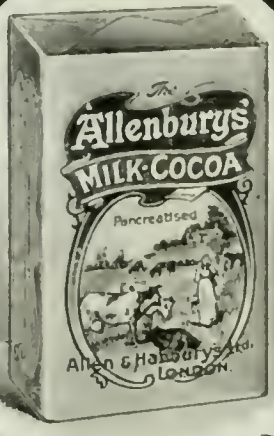

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